

**THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA**  
**HYDERABAD | WEDNESDAY | 7 MAY 2025**

Vol. 88 No. 126 Established 1938	20 PAGES	₹6.00
----------------------------------	----------	-------

**New Delhi:** Road accident victims all over India will be entitled for cashless treatment of up to ₹1.5 lakh for the first seven days at designated hospitals, the Centre said. The scheme is aimed at reducing the number of deaths arising from accidents every year due to delay in timely medical intervention. The National Health Authority (NHA) shall be the implementing agency for the programme.



SHORT TAKE

SONU SOOD JOINS AS JUDGE FOR MISS WORLD

DC CORRESPONDENTS  
HYDERABAD, MAY 6

Film actor Sonu Sood will receive a humanitarian award for his work with the Sood Charity Foundation and will be a judge at the Miss World finals, it was announced on Tuesday.

The opening ceremony on May 10 at Gachibowli Indoor Stadium will feature Telangana's folk and tribal dances and see the introduction of over 100 contestants.

Tourism minister Jupalli Krishna Rao visited the Shamshabad airport to review preparations for welcoming the contestants.

He instructed officials to plan a traditional welcome reflecting Telangana's culture and hospitality.

He called for faster immigration and customs checks and more staff to receive the guests.

From Thursday, contestants will visit historic and cultural places in Telangana. "The state represents our mission, 'Beauty With a Purpose,'" said Julia Morley, chairperson and CEO of the Miss World Organisation.

Telangana Tourism announced that complimentary passes for the events will be available through an online registration process on the official website <https://tourism.telangana.gov.in>. Those with confirmed registrations will receive an email and can collect their passes at the Gachibowli Stadium box office starting May 8.

# Blow to HCA as HC sets aside staff appointments

NEERAJ KUMAR | DC  
HYDERABAD, MAY 6

In yet another major setback to Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) top brass, the Telangana High Court set aside the appointment of staff and coaches including that of former India cricketer B.K. Venkatesh Prasad as consultant for cricket operations and game development, The HCA had sidelined the Hyderabad Cricket Academy of Excellence (HCAE), a high-quality cricket coaching academy having dedicated coaches and a director, to bring in a new team.

Justice Nagesh Bheema-paka of the Telangana High Court passed the order in a petition filed by HCA vice-president Sar-dar Daljeet Singh, joint secretary T. Basava Raju, ICA male representative R.A. Swaroop and ICA female representative Vanka Roma Singh, who contended that the appointments were in violation of the bylaws, rules and regulations of the HCA.

The court in its order directed the recovery of the amount paid to the new team from the personal accounts of the respondents, which include the HCA president, secretary, treasurer and the CEO, and not from the account of the HCA. The amount was paid to Venkatesh Prasad, Him-

ani Yadav, Mamata Kanojia, Arjun Hoysala, Sabyasaachi, Rajshekar Shanbal, Hyderabad Ranji coach Vineet Saxena, Shrivanti Naidu and B.R. Suvarna Laxmi.

The petitioners contended that the four office-bearers of the HCA had entered into an agreement, without the approval of the Apex Council on August 30, 2024, with Venkatesh Pradesh, appointing him as consultant for cricket operations with a remuneration of ₹75 lakh per annum. *Deccan Chronicle* had reported the abrupt decision of the HCA to replace the coaching and support staff of the HCAE after the state team won the 2024 Buchi Babu Tournament.

This newspaper is in possession of the letter written by Vijay Mohan Rao, director of HCAE, to the HCA bosses on the matter.

"This unilateral action violates the provisions of HCA memorandum and amounts to breach of fiduciary duty by respondents, as they are illegally executing appointment contracts without consulting or obtaining approval from the Apex Council," the petitioners argued in court.

Justice Bheemapaka in his order dated May 2 stated that the court did not find fault with Venkatesh Prasad and others for

accepting their respective appointments, but that the fact remained that the appointments made on behalf of the HCA were not in accordance with the rules and regulations. The petitioners also pointed out that the office-bearers had failed to convene the Apex Council meetings as required, did not provide notices or agendas, and ignored requests for audit reports and financial statements.

They argued that these actions breached the fiduciary duties of the office-bearers and violated the association's rules on governance and appointments.

The petitioners sought a writ of mandamus to declare the appointments illegal, direct financial disclosures, and restore proper governance by ensuring inclusive meetings and adherence to the bylaws. The court was presented with detailed arguments on the governance structure of the HCA, the powers of the Apex Council versus those of the office-bearers, and the procedural requirements for appointments and financial disclosures.

"This case underscores ongoing governance issues, highlighting the importance of following established rules and ensuring collective oversight to prevent arbitrary decisions," said T. Basava Raju, HCA joint secretary and one of the petitioners.

# Civil Defence drill in few areas, not in Army areas

Power likely to be cut in some areas, broadband too

DC CORRESPONDENTS  
HYDERABAD, MAY 6

While Hyderabad prepares for a large-scale air raid drill on Wednesday, several defence-linked institutions have confirmed they will not be involved in the exercise as it is designed to test civil defence, meaning preparedness of civilians and various government wings.

Hyderabad police commissioner C.V. Anand, speaking to *Deccan Chronicle*, said the initial phases of the drill will be limited to low-footfall areas, and were for gauging internal preparedness. He added that all DCPs had been put on alert to coordinate with local police stations and maintain law and order during the exercise.

"We want this to go smoothly without causing any panic or disruption," he said.

With the focus being on civil defence, officials from the National Cadet Corps (NCC), defence establishments, and the Secunderabad Cantonment Board (SCB) said they had no role in the drills.

"We've not received any orders or information," said an NCC officer. A senior SCB officer noted, "This is a purely civil law-and-order exercise being handled by city police and municipal services."

Joint commissioner of police (traffic) D. Joel Davis said that traffic management plans were being drafted and updates would be shared with motorists.

"We are still formulating strategies for handling traffic situations during the drills. Diversions will be informed in time," he said.

Once the sirens go off, officials said the public was expected to respond by immediately, seeking shelter, turning off lights and appliances, and not give in to rumours. Though the exercise will occur during the day, blackout protocols will be in place and should be followed by all, officials said. Authorities may temporarily cut power in some areas.

The drills have, mean-

## ACTION BY PUBLIC & VOLUNTEERS



Once an air raid siren sounds, act quickly and calmly.

Seek shelter immediately – move away from open areas and find a sturdy building or underground shelter;



Turn off utilities – If you're at home, turn off electrical appliances, gas, and open flames like stoves or fireplaces;

Stay informed – Follow updates from official sources like TV, radio, or government apps only;



Avoid rumors – Do not rely on unverified sources; always follow official instructions.

Stay put until safe – Remain in your shelter until authorities sound the all-clear.



If you're caught outside with no shelter nearby, find a low-lying area, lie flat, and cover your head.



## ACTION BY CIVIL DEFENCE SERVICES:

Police, fire brigade, rescue/SDRF, medical, revenue/local municipal authorities to reach respective incident sites by 4.20 pm;

Police to keep incident areas clear, enable other CD services do their work;

Civil defence wardens & volunteers to report 'damage', 'missing persons' to the fire brigade and rescue services

Fire, rescue services to 'start' firefighting, search and rescue operations immediately.

SDRF & DRF to clear the 'rubble, debris/wreckage' to clear path for free movement of CD services to facilitate rescue operations;

Medical & health services to be ready for triage, first aid and shifting of 'injured';

Temporary hospitals to be ready to treat the 'injured';

Transport services to be ready to shift the evacuated public from 'endangered areas' to pre-identified safe shelters/bunkers.

# Kacheguda station chosen for exercise

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MAY 6

South Central Railways said that it would hold a comprehensive civil defence drill at the Kacheguda station in Hyderabad division and a few other stations in its zone, on Wednesday.

The drill would be organised under the supervision of SCR deputy general manager Udaynath Kotla, who is also controller of civil defence, along with team of civil defence volunteers, instructors and personnel who would simulate a hostile attack scenario to evaluate emergency preparedness and inter-agency coordination.

Activation of air raid warning sirens, enforcement of crash blackout measures, evacuation

plan rehearsals, readiness testing of civil defence services, including firefighting, basic life support (BLS) and rescue operations form part of the drill.

In a statement, SCR said all departments concerned would take part in the exercise and ensure the smooth execution of the drill at their respective locations. Additionally, blackout measures will be enforced in railway stations during the drill period, including switching off of non-essential lighting and covering of windows, in line with civil defence guidelines. This exercise aims to strengthen the overall emergency response framework and readiness of railway personnel and infrastructure in the event of a wartime emergency, SCR said.

# CLASSIFIEDS

## FOR SALE AUTOMOTIVE

### FOUR WHEELERS

INNOVA 2013 diesel 7 seat ear 98000 kl ms drive, silver colour, hyderabad showroom, contact: 9849447003. (HYMM/2526/C00330)

## FOR SALE PROPERTY

### FLATS

### DOUBLE BEDROOM

BARKATPURA BRAND new 3 bhk 1400 sft flats East and West facing handing over june/ july 2025 . Call Rk estates 9246170370, 9949999582. (HYMM/2526/C00578)

### THREE & MORE

3 BHK flat for sale Near AV college, Domalguda, 2000 sft flat no.501. Exel Tulip Apartment. 6300580188 (HYMM/2526/C00521)

## INDEPENDENT HOUSE

### THREE & MORE

SALE/ RENT, Independent Building 360 Sq.yds, 7500 Sft Constructed Area at Padma Colony, Opp Hanuman Temple, Nallakunta. Ph:986875060, 944080527, 9849468721. (B/2526/C00066)

## LAND

4.5, 3.5, 1 and 0.5 Acres Agricultural Land with clear title (with borewell) for sale at Shabad(M), Rangareddy (Dist). ph: 9014202792. (HYHA/2526/C00774)

## PLOTS

627 SQ yds Plot for sale in Nandipalle village, Maheshwaram Mandal, 25 min from Shamshabad Airport. Buyers Only. @7893068666. (HYHA/2526/C00772)

2500/- PER sq.yd only Direct Company Sale Farm Plots Each Unit 1210 Sqyds (10 Guntas), Vijw H/ W, Nr Narkatpally, Cated Community Venture with Swimming pool, cottages, 30 fruit plants, 30 Red Sandal plants Contact: P.V.Rao. 9390261598 (HYMM/2526/C00571)

KADTHAL , Near upcoming pharma city, Regional ring road (RRR), Srisailem road, well developed DTCPL layout plots for sale. ph: 9989333244 (HYMM/2526/C00576)

PLOT FOR Sale 600 Sqyds at Dream Valley, Yenkapally Mainroad, 811 Sft Office Space at Paigah Plaza Bldg Basheerbagh for Sale For Details Contact: 9154595704 / 9030395387 (HYHA/2526/C00706)

## SITUATION VACANT

## ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

REQUIRED EXPERIENCED Full time Accountants with knowledge of Tally Prime ERP at Deepa Jewellers Pvt Ltd, Basheerbagh. Contact 8712867221. (B/2526/C00072)

WANTED JUNIOR Accountant with minimum 3+ years experience, proficient in tally and Receptionist with 2 years experience. Walk-in interview on 8 th may 3 pm to 7 pm . Ph: 9869616102. (HYHA/2526/C00768)

## ADVT. SALES & MKTG.

HIRING! EXPERIENCED Sales Executive (Min. 1yr) with communication a must. Call +91 9381784215. (HYMM/2526/C00573)

## CALL CENTER / BPO

URGENT HIRING: Freshers Launch Your MARSHTECHNOMINDS. We're hiring Fresh Graduates for dynamic roles inc IT Recruitments to work in US & India shifts. Walk in with your CV on 8th May 2025 from 11AM - 4PM @Qahwa House, Mehdiapatnam, Hyderabad Perks: Competitive salary+ Incentives. Call: +919865727860 +919849067278 (HYHA/2526/C00776)

## GENERAL

EVENT PROMO Executives- 10 Nos, Freshers only, 10K Salary. Business Executives- 16 Nos. Exp/ Age no bar. Two wheeler must. Playful work. No big targets. Candidates near ECIL, Neredmet, Marepally, Tarnaka Sainikpuri Contact 8790079349. (B/2526/C00071)

## MULTIPLE VACANCIES

DOSHI BROTHERS: Bathous, largest bath-fittings and sanitaryware showroom in the country is recruiting Sales Executives (Showroom & Field), Computer Operators, Store Executive and Receptionist. Walk-in-interview on 08th, 09th, and 10th May 4PM- 7PM at Bathous, Doshi Heights, beside NTV office, Road #92, JubileeHills, Hyd- 500033. Ph:8332001414 Email: admin@bathous.com (W/2526/AT000097)

URGENT REQ OF DRA & Non DRA Banking Collections, Field Executive: 16K- 22K,Telecaller: 11K- 15K + ince @hyd. 9030969896 / 7396451257. (HYHA/2526/C00724)

## TEACHERS

CMR GROUP of Schools, Bowenpally & Gajularamm requires High school and Primary teachers for all subjects. Graduates with B.Ed. and Experienced may send their application to Email:career.cmrscchoolsbowenpally@gmail.com or whatsapp to 8099696969/ 809967667 on or before 08/05/2025. (S/2526/C00232)

WALK-IN INTERVIEWS Wanted qualified & experienced teachers for: CBSE Curriculum (Classes 1- 7) State Curriculum (Classes 8- 10)Timings: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Location: Grace Children School, Koheda, Hyderabad Contact: 7288878696 / 7288878693 (HYHA/2526/C00579)

A REPUTED SCHOOL located at Mehdiapatnam is looking for Teachers to teach English, Urdu, Maths and Social Studies for Higher Classes. Graduates/ B.Ed can Call: 8978984441, 9014108012, Email resume: chhwap@gmail.com (HYHA/2526/C00689)

WANTED PRINCIPALS, Teachers Sri Vikas Group of Schools Hyderabad Ph: 9912753000, 9700141567 (HYHA/2526/C00773)

## TECHNICAL

WANTED SENIOR Electrician for Biscuit manufacturing unit, Chaitkessar 953341022. 9700745441. (HYHA/2526/C00770)

## FINANCE

LOANS FROM Bank/ Pvt. Mortgage(any property, with/ without income). Project:Housing,Education, Construction, Takeover. NPA/ Cibil consider. Cheque financierfor Salary/ Business. ph: 9030652336/ 7396113392. (HYHA/2526/C00650)

## CHANGE OF NAME

I, MUNEEB Fatima W/o Mohd Abdul Qudoos R/o 6-3-147/P, P&T Colony have changed my husband name as Mohammed Abdul Qudoos (HYMM/2526/C00577)

I,MOHAMMED Musa khan S/o Abdul Jaleel khan DOB 29-01-1967 R/o: 8-15-32/27 Shastripuram Rajendranagar Mandal RangaReddy dist. Have Changed My Name from Mohammed Musa khan to MOHAMMED SIKANDER KHAN vide Affidavit no 2316428. (HYHA/2526/C00771)

## LOST

I, VASUDHA Tummala, W/o Venkata Suman Cherukuri, R/o H.No: 8-2-293/82/1/197-A2, M.L.A. Colony, Road No.2, Film Nagar, Hyderabad. I have Lost my Original Land Registration Document Bearing Registration Number 3217/10. While travelling from home (Banjara Hills) to office (Film Nagar). If found please contact: 900304927 (HYHA/2526/C00775)

## POULTRY

VENCORB CHICKEN rich in protein, great in taste eat & enjoy. Vencorb's Broiler Hyderabad Zone price per kg. Farm Gate Rs.145, Retail Live Bird Rs.167, Dressed with Skin Rs.242, Skinless Rs.276. (HOPE) (S/2526/C00243)

## TUITION

HOME TUITIONS and online tuitions for classes Up to 10 (CBSE/ ICSE/ State), intermediate, degree, BE/ B.Tech, EAMCET, IIT & NEET foundation, mains and advanced, chess by talented faculty. Welcome, male, female tutors. Contact: Ascent Study Circle, Ph: 9912353330, 9912340561. (HYMM/2526/C00575)

Book CLASSIFIEDS online Ads2DC.com

## NOTICE

Readers are advised to make appropriate enquiries while responding to advertisements in these columns. Deccan Chronicle Holdings Ltd. does not vouch for any claims made by the Advertisers. The Printer, Publisher, Editor and Owner of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Ltd. shall not be held responsible / liable for any consequences, in case such claims are found to be false.

DECCAN Chronicle

BOOK YOUR CLASSIFIED / DISPLAY ADVERTISEMENTS at

HEAD OFFICE

36, S.D. Road, Secunderabad-3.

Ph: 27803930 (Ext: 330, 312 - Classified) (Ext: 318 - Display)

Ph: 040-27800180 / 27805397

Email: classifieds@deccanmail.com, advt@deccanmail.com

TIMINGS: Weekdays: 9 am to 8 pm Sunday: 10 am to 3 pm

EXCLUSIVE COUNTERS

Somajiguda : No.8 A, Amrutha Villa, Rajbhavan Road, Hyderabad - 500083. Ph: 23396395.

Basheerbagh : Pragati Chambers, Skyline Theatre Lane, Ph: 23228693.

TIMINGS: Weekdays: 9 am to 5 pm

Book DC Classifieds online ads2dc.com

For details and queries call: 040-27800180

FOR NEXT DAY EDITION BOOKING CLOSES AT 7.00 P.M.

# PAKISTAN WAR OF 1971 MARKED LAST AIR RAID SIRENS

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MAY 6

When the last time air rain warning sirens sounded over Hyderabad, it was during the 1971 war with Pakistan. With Hyderabad considered vulnerable to attacks by the enemy, Wednesday's air raid drills are expected to not only test the preparedness of government agencies' response but has also sent officials into making plans for installing air raid sirens across the city.

There are barely any such sirens, except possibly at a few defence related establishments.

There are sirens at some industries, but on Wednesday's first air raid drill, it will be the police sirens that will sound the alarm across Hyderabad. Though some religious establishments too have sirens, a decision has been taken for now not to put them to use.

The absence of air raid sirens — and the sudden need for them which brought the prospect of war to the city's doorsteps — which were not required after the 1971 war, was also discussed at a meeting in the city of top government officials from various departments on Tuesday.

"We have already started looking for sources from where the sirens can be procured. In the past they used to be hand cranked and now there but now there are electronic ones.

One issue that was also discussed was the number that may be needed for the city, and where exactly to install them. We hope to put all of these issues in place in the next few days," a senior government official said.

# Hyd ready for 'Operation Abhyaas'

BALU PULIPAKA, RACHEL DAMMALA AND MANVI VYAS | DC  
HYDERABAD, MAY 6

Hyderabad is all set to join the nationwide 'Operation Abyas', the drill to test civil defence preparedness, at 4 pm on Wednesday in an exercise that will last 30 minutes, with air raid sirens set to be heard over the city for the first time in nearly 54 years. The last time the city heard these sirens was during the 1971 war with Pakistan.

On Wednesday, Hyderabad will join 295 CD (civil defence) cities and towns in 244 districts of the country in the civil defence drill. The drills are designed to simulate an incoming air raid, and actions to be taken by government departments and agencies, and steps to be taken by civilian population, in the event of an actual air raid by the enemy on the city.

Officials, who attended a video conference hosted by the Union ministry of home affairs on Tuesday on Operation Abhyaas, said four areas in Hyderabad — Secunderabad Cantonment, Golconda Cantonment, Kanchanbagh, and Nacharam — were identified for the drills. The actual locations within these areas where the drills will be performed will be revealed to the agencies involved in the exercise only after the sounding of the sirens.

The South Central Railway said it would hold the drill at Kacheguda and some other stations. As part of the drill, industrial sirens, police public address systems at junctions, announcements by patrol vehicles, and fire department alarms will be triggered simultaneously for two minutes at 4 pm across the city, within the Outer Ring Road limits, to alert residents to the

beginning of an air raid alert.

The all-clear will be given with a one-minute long siren at 4.30 pm.

This is an exercise, the first of several that are likely to follow, aimed at sensitising people. The most important thing for everyone to bear in mind is that no one should panic. This aspect holds good for the mock drills, as well as for any real-life event. The goal is to gear up for any hostile attack if such a thing occurs," Director-General of Fire Services Y. Nagi Reddy, who is the head of Telangana's civil defence, told *Deccan Chronicle*.

Though it will only be a drill, the actual locations of 'air raid impact sites' will be "made known" to the various agencies a few minutes after the sirens are sounded, to test and establish their reaction times and efficacy. To be involved in the drills and rushing to the 'rescue' will

be personnel from the fire services, State Disaster Response Force, the police, and some other agencies, a senior government official said. Since this is the first such civil defence event in more than four decades, around 12 agencies that will take part, will be meeting at 10.30 am, to prepare for the drill and the actual 'air raid impact' locations will be chosen in consultation with the police. "The first few days of such drills, these will be limited to areas with less footfall and will avoid major public spots. Once our internal preparedness is gauged, drills in more crowded public areas will be introduced," Hyderabad police commissioner C.V. Anand said. As we make progress, more and more elements will be included along with participation of civilian volunteers as part of our civil defence preparation," Nagi Reddy said.

# PIL filed against illegal classes by jr colleges

DC CORRESPONDENTS  
HYDERABAD, MAY 6

A PIL was filed before the Telangana High Court complaining of the inaction of the education department and Intermediate Board of Education against private junior colleges which were conducting physical or online classes during the summer vacation. Petitioner Bandela Kranthi Kumar submitted that the private colleges were violating the mandate of the board guidelines but no action was taken against them. C.R. Sukumar, counsel rep-

resenting the petitioner, said that students who have recently completed Class 10 were prematurely offered admissions in the private colleges without following norms. Excessive sessions without mandated breaks lead to enormous stress, mental health ailments, burnouts, anxiety, depression and even suicidal tendencies amongst students, the petitioner stated.

CM TO LAUNCH HYDRAA STATION TOMORROW

The long-awaited HYDRAA police station is set to

be inaugurated on May 8 by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. The station, set up beside HYDRAA headquarters at Buddha Bhavan, will constitute an ACP, six inspectors, 12 sub-inspectors and 30 constables. It will have 70 vehicles. HYDRAA had recruited about 150 people who had narrowly missed out in the police constable examinations. They will be appointed into the HYDRAA's traffic wing, while some of them will be deputed into the DRF teams. Officials said that the structural works of the police station were com-

pleted, and the finishing touches are being given to the premises.

GI OFFICIALS STUDY BALANAGAR SITAPHAL

A team of experts examined the unique geographical characteristics of the Balanagar custard apple in Mahabubnagar, for which a geographical indication (GI) registration has been sought. The experts studied custard apple trees, located on the bunds of fields in Pomal, Kollur, Kesharavallipalli, and Kothapalli of Nawabpet mandal. The team later studied

the custard apple varieties growing naturally in the forest areas.

RESERVOIRS READY IN OSMANNAGAR

Two reservoirs at Osmannagar are ready to supply drinking water to colonies, gated communities and villages. These reservoirs are part of the ORR Phase-2 project to benefit around 1 lakh people. So far 22 km of water pipelines have been laid and 55 bulk connections planned. Board MD Ashok Reddy visited the site on Tuesday to check the final works.







IN BRIEF

1 killed, 3 injured in bee attack

**Adilabad:** A labourer died and three others were injured after a swarm of honeybees attacked them while they were working in Goleti-1 incline mine in Bellampalli of Mancherial district on Tuesday. The injured labourers, including Puppala Narasaiah of Madamram township, were rushed to a local hospital. Narasaiah, who suffered severe injuries, died while undergoing treatment. The other three are undergoing medical treatment. dent occurred.

Woman attacked over family feud

**Adilabad:** One Marupaka Anji attacked his relative Laxmi with an axe near the Kataram police station in Jayashankar Bhupalpally district on Tuesday. Passersby intervened and rushed the injured woman to a hospital. According to sources, a land dispute has been ongoing between the families of Marupaka Laxmi and Marupaka Saraiyah from Devarapalli. Laxmi had earlier been accused in the murder of Saraiyah and was currently out on bail. The incident occurred while Laxmi was returning home after visiting the Kataram police station. Anji, the son of the deceased Saraiyah, allegedly attacked her with a grudge over his father's murder.

14 MAOISTS LAY DOWN ARMS BEFORE SP

M. SRINIVAS I DC HYDERABAD, MAY 6

Fourteen Maoists surrendered before the Bhadradi-Kothagudem superintendent of police B. Rohit Raju on Tuesday. Of them, two were area committee members, four each party members and village committee members (VMCs), three revolutionary people's committee members and a member of the Krantikari Adivasi Mahila Sangathan (KAMS). Raju said the Maoists surrendered before the police after deciding to leave the path of Naxalism and lead a peaceful life with their family members after learning about the various measures being taken up for the welfare of surrendered Maoists. The development and welfare activities for tribals taken up under Operation Cheyutha programme by Bhadradi Kothagudem district police was another reason for Maoists to surrender.

WOMAN SELLS SON TO BUY AUTO FOR FIANCE

NARENDER PULLOOR I DC KAMAREDDY, MAY 6

A woman sold her five-year-old son for ₹50,000 to buy an autorickshaw for her lover. The matter came to light on Tuesday when child protection officials rescued the boy and shifted him to a child care centre in Kamareddy. According to officials, Busa Lavanya married Narsimloo six years ago and had two children. After Narsimloo's death last year, Lavanya began working at a cloth showroom in Kamareddy, where she came into contact with Chakali Sailoo of Parmalla, Lingampet mandal. The two entered a live-in relationship. Sailoo's wife reportedly objected to the relationship and left home. Both of them lost their jobs and started working as daily wage labourers. In an attempt to buy an autorickshaw for Sailoo, Lavanya allegedly sold her son to Naseema of Parmalla for ₹50,000. Upon receiving information, child protection officials rushed to Lavanya's house and rescued the child. Based on their complaint, Kamareddy police registered a case against Lavanya, Sailoo, Naseema, Shaheeda and Sekhar for the sale and purchase of the minor.

# Hospital under lens in miscarriage case

## Police seize hospital's DVR, collect more proof

PRIYA RATHNAM I DC HYDERABAD, MAY 6

Following the death of twin foetuses due to an alleged miscarriage at a private hospital in Ibrahimpatnam, the victim, 26-year-old Butti Keerthi, was shifted to Gandhi Hospital for treatment due to severe blood loss. Ibrahimpatnam police, who are probing the case, have seized the hospital's digital video recorder (DVR) and are collecting further evidence. Keerthi has been undergoing blood transfusions to stabilise her condition. "She has been losing blood for the past 20 days. Despite repeated consultations, Dr V. Anusha Reddy at Vijayalaxmi Hospital dismissed our concerns and assured us everything was fine," said her husband, Ganesh, speaking to *Deccan Chronicle*.

PROCESS ON TO STABILISE HER

The patient has been undergoing blood transfusions to stabilise her condition. Her husband said the trauma of losing their unborn children would haunt them forever. Ibrahimpatnam police have registered a case against the doctor and the hospital staff under Section 106(1) of the BNS (causing death by negligence).

"Now doctors at Gandhi Hospital are transfusing blood to prevent complications to her heart and kidneys. Later, they said her abdomen would need to be cleaned to remove remains from the miscarriage," he added, his voice trembling. Ganesh said the trauma of losing their unborn children would haunt them forever. "We conceived after six years of marriage. This tragedy is not because of our carelessness but due to the negligence of the hospital, the doctor and the staff. Even after the loss, when I requested the doctor to consider a discount on the bill, she remained arrogant and showed no remorse. She behaved as if she had done nothing wrong. For us, it is a double tragedy," he said, visibly shattered. Ibrahimpatnam police

have registered a case against Dr Anusha Reddy and the hospital staff under Section 106(1) of the BNS (causing death by negligence). The sub-section specifically refers to medical practitioners holding qualifications recognised under the National Medical Commission Act, 2019. A police source confirmed that investigators are examining the seized CCTV footage and gathering technical and documentary evidence to determine the sequence of events that led to the miscarriage. According to the complaint filed by Ganesh, Keerthi had conceived twins through in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) after seven years of marriage. Despite repeated complaints of pain and bleeding, the gynaecologist allegedly failed to provide timely medical intervention, which led to the loss of the twins.

## 3 GOVT STAFFERS ARRESTED IN BRIBERY CASES

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MAY 6

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) arrested three government employees in two bribery cases on Tuesday. In the first case, the ACB arrested Annaboina Rajeswara Rao, a motor vehicle driver at Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCL) in Bhadradi-Kothagudem district, for criminal misconduct. Rao was booked under the Prevention of Corruption Act for accepting bribes totalling ₹31.44 lakh from employees and job aspirants between 2021 and 2024. He allegedly made false promises to secure transfers, influence promotions, manipulate medical fitness results and arrange job placements. In another case, the ACB caught G. Sudhakar, superintendent at the office of the chief executive officer, Zilla Praja Parishad, Mulugu district, red-handed while accepting a ₹25,000 bribe from a complainant. The bribe was sought to prepare and submit the complainant's medical leave salary bills to the district treasury office. The second accused in the case, Sanikonnu Soumya, a junior assistant at the CEO's office, demanded ₹5,000, part of the ₹25,000 bribe. The bribe amount was recovered from Sudhakar. The details of the complainants in the two cases were withheld.

## Felling of tree



Trees are being chopped to widen the road so that motorists can take left turn at JNTU, Kukatpally. — K. DURGA RAO

# Stalker booked after teen dies by suicide

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MAY 6

A 14-year-old girl died by suicide after months of allegedly relentless harassment by a neighbour under the guise of love. Despite repeated complaints to his family, and his own family counselling him, the abuse continued, police said. According to the police, the victim was a Class 9 student at a government school. Her father stated that the harassment began six months ago when the accused, P. Rohit, first saw her walking her dog in a nearby park. He began pursuing her persistently,

claiming to be in love. When the stalking and harassment escalated, the girl informed her father, who then approached Rohit's parents. They assured him that Rohit would stop. However, the abuse continued. Rohit started using his brother's Instagram account to contact the girl and frequently called and messaged her. The father again confronted Rohit over the phone, but he claimed to be out of town and promised to talk later. On Sunday, Rohit messaged her again, prompting the father

to alert Rohit's parents once more. This time, they dismissed the message, claiming it might have come from someone else. On Monday, while the girl's parents were away attending a cremation, Rohit reportedly went to her house and threatened her. The victim informed her parents upon their return. They tried to console her and said they would resolve the matter the next morning. But it was too late. At 4.30 am, the girl's mother found her dead. Hayathnagar police have booked Rohit on charges of abetment to suicide.



# Anand, HNEW bag award; to receive at WPS, Dubai

M. SRINIVAS I DC HYDERABAD, MAY 6

City police commissioner C.V. Anand and the Hyderabad Narcotics Enforcement Wing (HNEW) have been awarded first place in the category of "Excellence in Anti-Narcotics" at the World Police Summit (WPS) to be organised by then Dubai police. The summit is scheduled to be held from May 13 to 15. This accolade places Telangana and India on the global map of pioneering anti-narcotics enforcement. Anand is scheduled to receive the award on May 15 at the Dubai police officers club.

Central to this recognition is the pioneering work of H-NEW which has implemented a holistic approach to drug control, combining multi-agency coordination with ED, NCB, DRI, GST, Excise, FRRO, Drugs Control Administration, and Counter Intelligence. This is in addition to community outreach through anti-drug committees in colleges and sustained public awareness initiatives, the statement said. Strong enforcement action leading to the busting of international and inter-state peddling networks, dark web interventions, deportation of foreign offenders, and a significant decline in drug supply was also one of the initiatives, besides rehabilitation focus, integrating support for victims of substance abuse alongside

enforcement. The WPS has informed Anand of his selection, stating: "This is a recognition of your remarkable achievements in advancing security and safety, and your efforts in promoting awareness and impactful change across communities and nations." The summit brings together leading law enforcement professionals from over 138 countries, including globally renowned agencies such as the FBI, NYPD, L A P D, Metropolitan Police (UK), Australian Federal Police, and the German Police etc. This year's award nominations witnessed intense global competition. Entries received from a wide spectrum of police units across continents underwent a rigorous two stage evaluation process.



## 66-YEAR-OLD WOMAN DIES OF MEDICAL LAPSE

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MAY 6

Sistla Surya Lakshmi, a 66-year-old woman, died allegedly due to medical negligence during a diagnostic procedure at MedQuest Diagnostic Centre in KPHB, according to the police on Tuesday. Her son Sistla Venkata Abhishek, 34, reached out to the police. According to investigation officer Lingam, Lakshmi was referred for a CT cystenography on Tuesday after experiencing persistent nasal discharge. At the diagnostic centre, contrast dye was administered before the scan. In his complaint, Abhishek alleged that the drug was given without necessary clinical precautions or allergy checks, which reportedly resulted in a cardiac arrest. He also claimed the staff did not provide intubation on time and instead blamed the family for not providing consent.

# CID arrests CEO of Falcon, who swindled over ₹4K cr

MANVI VYAS I DC HYDERABAD, MAY 6

The Crime Investigation Department (CID) has arrested Yogendra Singh, CEO of Falcon Group, for allegedly swindling ₹4,215 crore by cheating over 7,000 depositors by a Ponzi scheme under the pretext of a fake invoice discounting. Singh, 38, was at large since February 2025, after cases were registered against the firm by the Cyberabad economic offences wing (EOW), based on complaints from victims across the state. Acting on a tip-off, the CID apprehended him upon his return to Hyderabad from Dubai.

Capital Protection Force Pvt. Ltd developed the 'Falcon Invoice Discounting Application' to operate the scheme. The application, heavily advertised on various social media platforms, lured victims by high returns from investments allegedly backed by invoice deals with reputed multinational corporations. Investigations revealed that the accused created fake agreements and receipts to dupe investors. Around 4,065 investors are believed to have lost approximately ₹792 crore, with total deposits exceeding ₹4215 crore from 7,056 depositors. Three FIRs (Cr. No. 10/2025,

11/2025, and 12/2025) were registered under relevant sections of the BNS and the TSPDEF Act, 1999. CID officials confirmed that Singh was working closely with Amar Deep Kumar, managing director and main accused, and other associates including Sandeep Kumar, Amar Deep's brother. Singh had fled to Dubai before the case was officially registered in February 2025. While in Dubai, he was appointed the CEO of another company, Virgio Real Estate Pvt. Ltd., allegedly floated by the same group. The investigation is ongoing to trace the remaining accused involved in the case.

## CRACKDOWN ON HARASSERS BY THE SHE TEAMS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MAY 6

She Teams Hyderabad said they had caught 49 individuals red-handed for misbehaving with women in public places. Of them, 30 were warned and counselled in the presence of family members, while two were produced before a magistrate and sentenced to two days of imprisonment and a ₹50 fine. The SHE Teams also facilitated the registration of three Pocso cases at Chatrinaka, Jubilee Hills and Madannapet police stations. The accused lured minor girls with false promises of love and marriage, exploited them and later resorted to blackmail, said women's safety wing DCP Dr N.J.P. Lavanya, DCP women safety wing. Citing instances, the DCP said in one case, a 30-year-old private employee befriended a woman on Facebook and took her to a hotel, where he secretly recorded intimate moments without her consent.

**SHRADDHANJALI**

**Shri M. Devarajan** (M.A)  
EX. Asst. Commercial Manager (SCR)  
06-09-1934 - 23-04-2025  
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform you of the 15th Day Ceremony on Wednesday, 07-05-2025 at 7:00 PM followed by Dinner  
Sri Venkateswara Bhavan  
# H.No: 31-81, R.K. Puram Near Vishnu and Durga Temples Ramakrishna Puram Railway Station, Sec'bad-500056  
Your kind presence will be a source of strength and support to our family during this difficult time.  
Inserted by: **Family Members**  
(S/2526/D00108)

**13th ANNIVERSARY**

**Smt. KOTI SAVITRI**  
W/o. Late Lingam  
DOD : 07-05-2012  
Days are passing into years we remember you in silent tears  
Inserted By: **Family Members**  
Ph: 9866381257 / 9849042583

**7th ANNIVERSARY**

**Dr. B. NANDRAJ SINGH**  
Retd. Director of Health & Family Welfare  
(Govt. of United Andhra Pradesh)  
Expired on 07th May 2018  
Your love will continue to be our guide  
Inserted by: **Family Members**  
(S/2526/D00116)

**1st Death Anniversary**

**Dr. ALLADA NARAYANASWAMY (SAM)**  
DOB: 20-05-1965 DOD: 07-05-2024  
"Grief is the price we pay for love" Losing you hurts, but knowing you & loving you was a gift. We will carry your memories always. You are deeply missed.  
Reza Khorami - (New Zealand)  
Sanjay Joshi, Vijay Joshi  
(S/2526/D00117)

**6th ANNIVERSARY**

**B. Samuel Rajsekhar**  
Express Guard (SCR)  
DOB: 18.03.1962 DOD: 07.05.2019  
Your sweet memories will remain in our hearts forever and ever.  
Inserted by: **Wife, Daughter & Family Members**

**3rd DEATH ANNIVERSARY**

**Late NUNE PRAKASH**  
S/o Late Nune Bhushanam  
Retd. HM, ZPHS  
D.O.B: 25.09.1948 D.O.D: 07.05.2022  
Time may pass, but the pain of losing you remains. Holding you close in our thoughts.  
Inserted by: **Wife: Nune Sunitha Prakash & Family**

**OBITUARY**

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. - 2 Timothy 4:7

**SWARNALATA MANKIKAR**  
D.O.B: 23-02-1959 - D.O.D: 05-05-2025  
Funeral service in LUTHERAN Church Lakdikapal at 1 pm on 7/5/25, followed by burial at Narayanaguda cemetery. The memorial service will be held on 9/5/2025 in the club house at Patel's Green park Yapral Secunderabad at 7 pm. In Grief. Ruben family. Cont no: 789394730/ 9858190896

**OBITUARY**

**BALDEVAS GHANSHYAMDAS SHAH**  
DOB 27-04-1943, DOD 05-05-2025  
You lived a beautiful, inspiring life filled with travel stories and achievements. Your journey lives on in our hearts forever.  
Loving Tribute by **ANSUYA BALDEVAS & FAMILY**

**4th DEATH ANNIVERSARY**

**MOHAN LAL ASHRE**  
(Rtd South Central Railway)  
Wife: Prabhavathi Ashre  
Four years have passed, yet your love continues to light our lives. Gone from our sight, but never from our hearts.  
Forever remembered by your loving **ASHRE Family**.  
Address: 16-7-261/40B, Azampura, Hyd. Cell: 9182981637, 8686502410

**2nd DEATH ANNIVERSARY**

"Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of HIS saints" Ps 116:15

**Bandugula Shanthi Kumar**  
Retd. Addl.SP  
(S/o. Late Bandugula Anantha Rao)  
DOB: 27-2-1959 DOD: 7-05-2023  
You remain in our hearts forever.  
Inserted by Wife, Sons, Daughters inlaw & Grand Children

**6th DEATH ANNIVERSARY**

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful servants." *Psalms 116:15*  
**In Loving Memory Of**

**Rev. K. JEEVARATHNAM**  
(Retired Principal, Methodist Institutions)  
Hyderabad Regional Conference, MCI.  
DOB: 20.06.1935 DOD: 07.05.2019  
Inserted by: **Family Members**  
Mobile No: 9848782373

**1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY**

Those who have died believing in Christ will rise to life first - 1 *Thess 4:16*

**SAMSON NIROOP KUMAR**  
DoB: 28-08-1969 DoB: 07-05-2024  
"There are memories that time does not erase... Forever does not make loss forgettable, only bearable."  
Miss you each and every day, **Nirop**.  
Rest in Peace till the Day of Resurrection.

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF**

**MR. VELAPPAN SUKUMAR**  
(June 24th 1942 - May 6th, 2025)  
With profound grief we announce the passing of Mr. Velappan Sukumar on May 6th, 2025 at 12:00 pm noon, who has left behind a legacy of love, compassion, and strength.  
The funeral will be held on May 8th Deeply mourned by:  
Mrs. Swarna Prabha Sukumar (Wife), Lalit (Son), Kritika (Daughter-in-law), Nila (Granddaughter), and Family.  
Ph: +91 9849145047

**17th Anniversary**

**Late. Nomula Lalitha Patel**  
General Secretary State mahila Congress committee  
DOD: 7.5.2008  
To my mother in heaven, thank you for always loving me and guiding me..  
Inserted by: Son - Nomula Sudeep Patel Goud  
Former IPCC Secretary  
Navaneetha Patel Goud, Grandson: Tanuj Patel Goud, Grand Daughter: Lakshita Patel

**19th ANNIVERSARY**

**KV. ASHOK KUMAR**  
Assistant Controller (W&M)  
Legal Metrology Dept.  
"Your will remain in our hearts for ever" We miss you every moment of our lives.  
Wife: K. Lakshmi, M.A (Eng)  
Sons: Mr.&Mrs. KA. Siva Kumar, (B.Sc) ASI, LM  
Mr.&Mrs. KA. Vishal Kumar, B.Tech.  
KA. Ashwin Kumar, MBBS  
Grand Daughter: K. Laghina  
Grand Son's: K.Ashul, K.Akhira Vasumath  
K. Leeladhara

**8th DEATH ANNIVERSARY**

**M.B. JESWANTH RAO**  
DOB: 19.07.1932 & DOD: 07.05.2017  
We miss you every moment in our life & your presence continues to surround us in our hearts.  
Inserted by: **MADYALA FAMILY**  
9441451919

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
Corrigendum No. 3  
Publication of Corrigendum against Tender Notice No. NIT-PSSA-2025-01/E-Tender Notice/01 dated 27.03.2025, in News Papers.  
In reference to above tender notice following corrigendum are being issued:-  
Note - Necessary amendment has been published on IREPS as CORRIGENDUM No. 3.  
Other condition will remain unchanged. 565/25 (C)



## IN BRIEF

**Bakrid: MIM leaders meet DGP**

**Hyderabad:** A delegation of AIMIM legislators and leaders met DGP Dr Jitender and submitted a representation seeking necessary instructions to police officials for the peaceful celebration of Id-ul-Zuha, Bakrid, on June 7. They stated that Qureshi community engage themselves in cattle trade. Police should ensure that the traders are not harassed, they said.

**5TH BATCH OF HAJ PILGRIMS DEPARTS FOR SAUDI ARABIA**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, MAY 6

The fifth batch of 287 Haj pilgrims departed to Saudi Arabia on Tuesday afternoon from the Shamshabad airport. The journey was flagged off by Telangana Haj Committee chairman Syed Gulam Afzal Biyabani (Khusro Pasha) from Haj House. He urged pilgrims to respect the sanctity of the holy places and remain patient and devoted through out the journey. He also encouraged younger pilgrims to help elderly people.

A total of 1,092 pilgrims from Telangana have reached Madina. The next Haj flight is scheduled for 11.25 am of Sunday. Haj Committee executive officer Sajjad Ali greeted the pilgrims and wished them safe journey. Committee members Md Mujeebuddin and Md Layeeq, and minority welfare department officials were present at the program.

**GHMC CHIEF CHECKS WORKS OF KUKATPALLY ZONE**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, MAY 6

GHMC commissioner R. V. Karnan inspected development works at Kukatpally zone on Tuesday at Moosapet, Gajularamam and Kukatpally circles. He inspected the IDL Luge's box drain works, and urged officials to complete the works to ensure there was no flooding in the rainy season.

At Kaithalapur, he asked why the road widening works are not progressing. Engineers told him that there is a court case, to which Karnan directed them to file a counter. He urged the zonal commissioner to put special emphasis on the works. Later, he inspected the Kailasapuram Hindu graveyard, and the animal care centre beside it.

Speaking about relief efforts during the recent rains in Hyderabad, he said that monsoon emergency teams had been deputed to the 141 water-logging points. He said that authorities are actively monitoring frequently waterlogged areas, and if any unforeseen incident is reported, teams are immediately deputed to the location to solve the issue.

# HYDRAA razes convention hall

## Illegal unit was raised on FCI housing society

**PRATHYUSH NALLELLA I DC**  
HYDERABAD, MAY 6

Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) on Tuesday demolished illegal constructions raised by Sandhya Conventions owner S. Sridhar Rao on land belonging to the Fertiliser Corporation of India Employees' Cooperative Housing Society in Gachibowli, bringing relief to plot-owners who spent several years running around government offices to retrieve their property from encroachment.

HYDRAA officials razed Sandhya Convention's mini convention hall, a G+2 iron shed structure, 10 rest-rooms and kitchen structures. They also demolished the iron fencing around the encroached land and archways.

HYDRAA stated that Sridhar Rao encroached upon land and plots of the FCI housing society's layout, and had built illegal constructions on it property.

The Housing society layout was established in 1980 on 20 acres of land with 162 plots. Plot-owners complained to HYDRAA at a Prajavani programme that Sandhya Convention owner Sridhar Rao had erased the layouts.

They alleged that he removed the layouts of roads and parklands,



HYDRAA razes unauthorised mini hall, kitchen, restrooms adjacent to Sandhya Convention Centre at Gachibowli in Hyderabad, on Tuesday.

— R. PAVAN

and has raised structures for commercial activities. When they questioned the company personnel, residents complained, they were attacked. Some of their plot owners had died by suicide as their property was taken over; at least one victim is stated to be ready to lodge a formal complaint.

HYDRAA officials stated that after receiving the complaint, they conducted investigations into the layout and found out that several structures raised on the property did not have any permission. Based on the orders of HYDRAA commissioner A.V. Ranganath, authorities razed the structures, fencing and arches around the area.

HYDRAA officials were accompanied by the law and order police, and faced no resistance from

Sridhar Rao's personnel.

HYDRAA also stated that several other landowners, from not only the city but from across the globe, had filed complaints against Sridhar Rao.

Authorities stated that a woman from Delhi filed a complaint online that her husband died by suicide, after Sridhar Rao and his henchmen claimed that their plot was not existent. She said that she would come to Hyderabad and file a complaint directly.

HYDRAA said that some complainants alleged that Sridhar Rao was now allowing them to go into their layouts, others complained that he was getting development agreements signed without their involvement and raising illegal structures.

# 15 acres of govt land in Gajularamaram cleared

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, MAY 6

Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) removed road encroachments at Katadan and reclaimed 15 acres of government land at Gajularamaram, which was being encroached by KL University, on Tuesday. Of this land, the university had encroached upon 0.5 acres of government land.

Authorities stated that the government in 2009 had allotted the land to Rajeev Swagruha housing scheme.

● **AUTHORITIES** removed the wall and connected Madhuranagar to Indira Society Colony. Officials removed walls and commercial sheds which were barring colony residents from moving on the roads.

Since the constructions did not happen, local leaders swarmed on the land, installed their own fencing and sheds and encroached on the land.

After local residents complained to HYDRAA, authorities investigated and established that the land had been encroached upon.

HYDRAA commissioner A.V. Ranganath also inspected the land, after which he directed authorities to remove the encroachments and put up government fencing.

At Katadan, Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency removed a road encroachment which was being blocked by a wall. Authorities removed the wall and connected Madhuranagar to Indira Society Colony. Officials removed walls and commercial sheds which were barring colony residents from moving on the roads amid local police presence.



Sewage flows into open plots at Saket Colony in Kapra causes foul smell and groundwater contamination.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

# Sewage pollutes borewell water in Saket Colony

**SABA ANJUM SHAIKH I DC**  
HYDERABAD, MAY 6

Drainage water from a nearby colony has been let out into empty open plots at Saket Colony in Kapra for over a year, causing the dirty water to seep into the ground and mix with the underground water.

People living in the colony are raising concerns over the issue as the sewage is polluting the groundwater, which many families depend on for their daily needs. Borewell water, which was once clean now smells bad and looks contaminated.

"Even after bringing this issue to the attention of officials, there has been no use. If we dig just 10 feet in the nearby lands the drainage water starts surfacing," said Venkata Rama Shiva, a resident.

"Groundwater is our only source of water and even that has now become polluted now," he added.

The situation has left nearly 200 families across five apartment buildings worried. They are concerned not just about the

● **PEOPLE** living in the colony are raising concerns over the issue as the sewage is polluting the groundwater, which many families depend on.

foul smell and inconvenience, but the risk of waterborne diseases especially with the rainy season coming.

"There are five apartment buildings here and nearly 200 families are suffering because of this," said M. Krishna, another resident. "We have children and elderly people here and the health risks are real," he added.

Despite repeated complaints made to the authorities, residents say the issue has not been resolved.

When contacted, Santhosh Kumar, General Manager of the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWS&SB), said, "We are aware of the problem. Plans have already been proposed and once the tender is sanctioned, the work will begin."

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY		
Tender Notice No. 37-ELC/G/PRYJ/25-26		Dt. 02.05.2025
<b>E-Tender Notice</b>		
Senior Div. Electrical Engineer/Const/N.C. Rly/Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invite the following e-Tender on prescribed form for the following works up to 15:00 hrs. on 26.05.2025 The details of the tenders are as under:-		
Tender No. : ELG-67-2526	Cost of work (in Rs.) : 15903313.00	
<b>Name of Work :</b> Augmentation of power supply system with replacement of over head lines by ABC (Ariel Bunch Conductor) conductors in Fazalganj, Tejab mill colonies of Kanpur area.		
<b>Bid Security (in Rs.) : 229500.00</b>		<b>Duration of completion : 06 Month</b>
<b>Tender Opening Date : 26.05.2025, 15:00 Hrs.</b>		
<b>Note :</b> 1. The complete information along with tender document of above e-Tender is available on Website <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> up to 15:00 hrs. on the due date of tender opening. 768/25 (C)		

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY		
E-Tendering Notice No. : 2025-May-01		Dated: 01.05.2025
<b>E-TENDER NOTICE</b>		
Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering), N. C. Rly Agra for and on behalf of the President of India invites "Open Tender" through on Line only (E-Tendering) for the following works. The details of the tender are as under:-		
<b>S.No. : 1</b>	<b>Tender No.:</b> 2025-May-01-01	<b>Approx. Cost (Rs.):</b> ₹ 138684777.07
<b>Description of work :</b> Provision of new station building and road widening at 3rd entry at Mathura Jn.		
<b>S.No. : 2</b>	<b>Tender No.:</b> 2025-May-01-02	<b>Approx. Cost (Rs.):</b> ₹ 3712364.01
<b>Description of work :</b> Provision of Rest Room and lavatory at NBI, BINR, BARS, GZKA, A/JH & other station for operating staff in Agra division.		
<b>S.No. : 3</b>	<b>Tender No.:</b> 2025-May-01-03	<b>Approx. Cost (Rs.):</b> ₹ 863917.84
<b>Description of work :</b> Provision of water supply through Tankers at different station KXM, FAR, MORA & RNKA in ADEN/II-MTJ section (For 24 Months).		
<b>S.No. : 4</b>	<b>Tender No.:</b> 2025-May-01-04	<b>Approx. Cost (Rs.):</b> ₹ 1964800.00
<b>Description of work :</b> Periodical cleaning of underground water storage sump, Overhead RCC tank & PVC water tanks under jurisdiction Sr. DEN/II/Agra for period 02 years.		
<b>S.No. : 5</b>	<b>Tender No.:</b> 2025-May-01-05	<b>Approx. Cost (Rs.):</b> ₹ 537237.75
<b>Description of work :</b> Kiraoli & Mirhakur- Supply of potable water for stations and colony for 15 Months.		
For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> . Tenders can only be submitted through web portal <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> up to 15:00 hrs on 23.05.2025. 764/25 (A)		

CORRIGENDUM-1 AGAINST TENDER NOTICE NO. RN-ST-07-2025-26; DATE: 30-04-2025		
<b>Name of Work:</b> Improvement of Earthing and Protection System of all EI & BPACs in Rangiya Division.		
Items Modified TS:		
<b>NIT schedule</b>		
Item no.	Existing TS	Modified TS
5	Supply of GI tape for connecting different earthing pits.	Supply of GI tape dimension 20x3 mm for connecting different earthing pits.
11	Supply of SPD 24 V as per TS	Supply of SPD 24V suitable/compatible for SSDAC/HASSDAC of existing system according to the software version of make/brand: OBO/Phoenix contact/Schneider/ABB or superior.
12	Supply of SPD48V as per TS	Supply of SPD 48V suitable/compatible for SSDAC/HASSDAC of existing system according to the software version of make/brand: OBO/Phoenix contact/Schneider/ABB or superior.
13	Supply of SPD Data as per TS	Supply of Data SPD suitable/compatible for SSDAC/HASSDAC of existing system according to the software version of make/brand: OBO/Phoenix contact/Schneider/ABB or superior.
14	Isolating Spark Gap	Type: FLT-1SG-100-EX-Spark gap Phoenix make or superior.
17	Lightening counter 6 digit IP 67 for getting lightning count.	Lightening counter 6 digit IP 67 for getting lightning count it should be compatible with the item no. 15 and make should be same as the main system.
Other condition will remain same.		
Divisional Railway Manager (S&T)/Rangiya		
<b>NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY</b>		
<b>"SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE"</b>		

# Real estate firm dupes buyers of ₹50 cr in pre-launch offer

**SABA ANJUM SHAIKH I DC**  
HYDERABAD, MAY 6

A group of individuals has accused a city-based real estate consultancy firm Sivom Projects Private Limited of cheating them by selling plots through false promises and brochures in 2017. They said the company had collected ₹50 crore but have not registered the plots in their names.

They claimed that the company had promised to build a luxury gated community on land in Jeedimetla village, Quthbullapur with flats, a clubhouse, swimming pool, gym, gaming zone and even interiors based on Singapore and Japan technology.

The buyers said that the company claimed to have had all approvals from RERA and HMDA for the land and collected large amounts of money from customers in the name of pre-launch offers without starting any construction.

In 2017, Sivom Projects sold 45 plots on around 3.8 acres of land. They told buyers that the registration would be completed in a few months. But even after seven years, no regis-



● **THE BUYERS** said the company had collected ₹50 crore but have not registered the plots in their names.

● **THEY** claimed that the company had promised to build a luxury gated community on land in Jeedimetla village, Quthbullapur with flats, a clubhouse, swimming pool based on Singapore technology.

trations were done. In many cases, one plot was sold to two or three different people. Most of the buyers were retired employees and middle class families who believed the company's promises and invested their life savings.

According to the records of the Registrar of Companies, Samba Murthy Isukapatha is the managing director of Sivom Projects Pvt Ltd. The company was incorporated on March 6, 2017, when the alleged scam was executed.

Other founding directors of the company were Umamaheswar Rao Kasuladevi and Mallesh Reddy Sanjeeva Reddy Kapu - both of whom retired on August 19, 2019. Samba Murthy is the

managing director of ISM Steel (India) Private Limited and is on the board of ISM Projects Private Limited, Lupac Accounting and Related Services Private Limited. Some people sold jewellery, took personal loans to buy these plots. Now, they are left with nothing and are feeling helpless. The victims have now registered a complaint with the Jeedimetla Police.

Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, Radha Krishna, one of the victims, said, "It's been seven years and nothing has moved on the ground. The builder isn't even taking our calls anymore. We have trusted them with our life savings, and now they are not even responding to us."

Hari Babu, another buyer, said, "They're pur-

posely delaying the development and working with people from nearby plots to block us. Now they have even put goons there to stop us from entering our own plots. We are scared that they are trying to take over our land and sell it again."

Now, several affected buyers are demanding action from the authorities. They want the government to intervene, ensure the return of their money or help them get legal possession of the land they paid for.

According to the records of the Registrar of Companies, Samba Murthy Isukapatha is the managing director of Sivom Projects Pvt Ltd. The company was incorporated on March 6, 2017, when the alleged scam was executed. Other founding directors of the company were Umamaheswar Rao Kasuladevi and Mallesh Reddy Sanjeeva Reddy Kapu - both of whom retired on August 19, 2019.

Samba Murthy is the managing director of ISM Steel (India) Private Limited and is on the board of ISM Projects Private Limited, Lupac Accounting and Related Services Private Limited.

INDIAN RAILWAY CATERING AND TOURISM CORPORATION LTD. (A Government of India Enterprise - Navratna) CIN : L74899DL1999GOI101707	
IRCTC invites:-	
1. Open E-Tender No. 2025/IRCTC/Catering & Allied/Tejas Train/ADI for Appointment of Service Provider for Providing On-Board Catering and Allied Services on Tejas Train on Route ADI-MMCT-ADI. Pre-bid meeting (VC): 20.05.2025 at 12:00 hrs. Last date for submission of bids: 30.05.2025 upto 15:00 hrs.	
2. Open E-Tender No. 2025/IRCTC/Catering & Allied/Tejas Train/LJN for Appointment of Service Provider for Providing On-Board Catering and Allied Services on Tejas Train on Route LJN-NDLS-LJN. Pre-bid meeting (VC): 20.05.2025 at 12:00 hrs. Last date for submission of bids: 30.05.2025 upto 15:00 hrs.	
3. Open E-Tender No. 2024/IRCTC/RN/Logistics/Ambernath/OT for transportation and CFA services of 'Rail Neer' Packaged Drinking Water at Rail Neer Plant, Ambernath, Mumbai for a period of three years. Last Date & Time of online Submission: 20.05.2025 upto 15:00 hrs.	
4. Open E-Tender No. 2025/IRCTC/CO/SER/Video Ads for video Ads on IRCTC and Indian Railway Website for a period of Two (2) years. Pre-bid meeting (VC): 27.05.2025 at 12:30 hrs. Last date for submission of bids: 06.06.2025 upto 15:00 hrs.	
For more details visit IRCTC website <a href="http://www.irctc.com">www.irctc.com</a> and <a href="http://www.tenderwizard.com">www.tenderwizard.com</a> /IRCTC. Tender Document downloading & participation can be done on website <a href="http://www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC">www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC</a> .	
In case of any further corrigendum/addendum issued on the above advertisement, it will only be published on IRCTC's website <a href="http://www.irctc.com">www.irctc.com</a> and <a href="http://www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC">www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC</a> .	
IRCTC Ltd. World Trade Center (WTC), 2nd Floor Tower-D, Nauraj Nagar, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi-110 029	

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT NIT No. 10/CW7/DB/D4/MRDCL/2025		Dt: 03.05.2025
Name of the work: PHMED - Engineer-in-Chief (PH) Office Building - Renovation of 2nd Floor of ENC (PH) Complex for accommodation of the Office of the Riverfront Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad. Cost of works: Rs. 200.00 Lakhs. Bid Submission Closing date: 16.05.2025 @ 04:30 PM. Further details can be seen at 'e' procurement market place @ <a href="https://tender.telangana.gov.in">https://tender.telangana.gov.in</a> . Contact No: 040-2325849, 9154299724.		
Sd/- Superintending Engineer (PH),		
DIPR RO No.: 1430-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2025-26		West Circle, Hyderabad.

OFFICE OF THE TELLAPUR MUNICIPALITY SANGAREDDY DISTRICT e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE Notice No.E/14/2025-26, Date: 05-05-2025	
1. Online tenders are invited by the Tellapur Municipality, Sangareddy District, e-procurement notice no. E/104/2025-26, dated: 05.05.2025 under e-procurement platform for an amount of Rs.20.85 Cr for (19) works. Tenderers can download tender schedule from e-market place i.e. <a href="http://www.tender.telangana.gov.in">www.tender.telangana.gov.in</a> and can obtain further details. Last date for receipt of bids: Dt. 14.05.2025 upto 3.30 PM.	
2. Quotations are invited by Tellapur Municipality, Sangareddy District as per Quotation Notice No.E/14/2025-26, Dated: 05.05.2025. For maintenance of 250 feet and above pole flag pole at Tellapur Municipality office. Last date for receipt of quotations: Dt. 08.05.2025 upto 3.30 P.M. For complete details contact the Commissioner Tellapur - 9440019940.	
Sd/- Municipality Commissioner Tellapur Municipality	
DIPR RO No. 1399-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2025-26	

OFFICE OF THE MANIKONDA MUNICIPALITY RANGA REDDY DISTRICT No. E1/SSBM/490/2025-26		Date:06.05.2025
<b>EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)</b>		
The Commissioner, Manikonda Municipality invites a Quotation requisition (for the following items/work):		
1. Supply, Delivery and Installation of architectural/ musical/ illuminated Water fountains/statuses etc., in rotaries/medians etc., in Manikonda Municipality.		
2. Supply, Delivery and Installation of children friendly/play area Citizen friendly walking tracks/adventure tracks/playing tracks for parks in Manikonda Municipality.		
3. Supply, Delivery and Installation of items related to miniature traffic Awareness /safety Awareness/educational in Manikonda Municipality.		
The interested organization/ agencies/ firms/ contractors/ are requested to send their expression of interest.		
Last date of submitting the EOI is 11.00 am @ Dt: 17.05.2025		
For further details and detailed specifications contact Municipal Commissioner / Municipal Engineer (8008040891) during office hours. Sd/- Commissioner Manikonda Municipality		
DIPR RO No.: 1411-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2025-26		

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION & URBAN DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TENDER NOTICE RFP No. E-713478-2024-H1		Dt. 05-05-2025
No. of works (01): Name of the work: Selection of Agency to "Establish Municipal Solid waste based Waste to Energy (WTE) processing Facility at Huzurabad for Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation & Karimnagar Municipal Corporation cluster (09 ULBs), in Telangana on Design, Build, Finance, Operate & Transfer (DBFOT) Basis" e-Procurement products category: Pre-bid meeting: 15.05.2025 at 15:00 Hrs (in the O/o CDMA, Masab Tank, Hyderabad); Bid Submission closing date: 26.05.2025 @16:00 Hrs. RFP can be downloaded from 07.05.2025 @ 15:00 Hrs and other details can be seen at 'e' procurement market place @ <a href="https://tender.telangana.gov.in">https://tender.telangana.gov.in</a> .		
Sd/- Dr. T.K. Sreedevi, IAS		
DIPR RO No.: 1419-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2025-26		Commissioner & Director of Mpl Admn

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY Tender Notice No.: EL-C-PRYJ-02-25-26			Date: 05.05.2025
<b>E-TENDER NOTICE</b>			
Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/ Const/N.C. Rly/Prayagraj acting for and on behalf of the President of India, invite the following E-Tenders on prescribed form for the following work up to 15:00 hrs. on 30.05.2025. The details of the tender are as under:-			
<b>Tender No.</b>	<b>Advertised value of work (in Rs.)</b>	<b>Bid Security (in Rs.)</b>	
EL-C-PRYJ-02-25-26	24,46,10,934.74/-	13,73,100.00/-	
<b>Name of work :</b> 25 KV AC Electrification work for balance work of "Prayagraj Yard remodeling work (Sanctioned under umbrella work 2019-20) (P.B. Item No. 92 of 2019-20)			
<b>Period of completion : 18 Months</b>		<b>Tender Opening Date: 30.05.2025</b>	
<b>Note:</b> 1. The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders are available on Website <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> up to 15:00 hrs. on the due date of tender opening. 2. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above Tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate. 3. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the Website of IREPS may be approached. 769/25 (ADM)			

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 04/2025			Date: 05.05.2025
<b>E-Tender Notice</b>			
Sr.DSTE/North Central Railway, Agra acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites "Open Tender" through Online only (E-Tendering) for the following work:			
<b>E-TENDER No. :</b> AGRA-ST-2025-10	<b>Approx. Cost of work :</b> ₹ 96,77,736.02		
<b>Name of work :</b> Provision of remote monitoring of CCTV of 04 stations (AGC, RKM, MTJ & AF) at DRM campus of Agra Division.			
<b>E-TENDER No. :</b> AGRA-ST-2025-11	<b>Approx. Cost of work :</b> ₹ 51,60,556.20		
<b>Name of work :</b> Comprehensive Annual maintenance contract of WESTRACE Make SSI systems installed at Raja KI Mandi Station of Agra division for a period of five years.			
<b>E-TENDER No. :</b> AGRA-ST-2025-12	<b>Approx. Cost of work :</b> ₹ 44,56,124.85		
<b>Name of work :</b> Replacement of Overaged VDU with Embedded System of 05 stations in MTJ-AWR section in Agra Division.			
<b>All Tenders closing date:</b> 28.05.2025			
For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railway Website <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> . Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids through web portal <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> up to 15:00 hrs on above mentioned date. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. 771/25 (DG)			

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY Tender Notice No: 0920252026		Dated: 05.05.2025
<b>E-Tendering Tender Notice</b>		
Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering)/North Central Railway/Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites the following E-tendering process for the following works up to 13:30 hrs. on 28.05.2025 The details of the tender is as under:		
<b>Tender No. : 24, Name of work :</b> Provision of Ballast Less Track on Line No. 1 of Platform No. 1 of Prayagraj Railway Station under Assistant Divisional Engineer/Line/Prayagraj</		



DECCAN  
Chronicle

7 MAY 2025

Stand up against hate, don't let Pahalgam terrorists win

The people of India stood together to defeat the designs of the terrorists who ran bullets into unsuspecting holiday-makers in Pahalgam after checking their religion but hatemongers within the country are playing into the hands of the terrorists and aiding in their mission to sow seeds of religious hatred in the country. The terrorists will have their mission accomplished unless the same Indian people who resisted terror recognise this domestic danger.

The people of Jammu and Kashmir rose as one person against the terrorist attack; the Assembly in the Union territory passed a unanimous resolution condemning it. They were unusual acts. But more unusual was the way in which the living victims of the terror attack, several of them, responded. The daughter of a Keralite whom the terrorists killed in front of her after making sure that he was not a Muslim said she lost her father in the terror attack but gained two brothers, both Muslim. She was referring to the woman who lost her Navy captain husband in a similar fashion wanted justice to be done to her husband but did not want people to go after Kashmiris and Muslims. A woman from Kanpur who lost her husband to terrorist guns said the terrorists were not even human.

**The daughter of a Keralite whom the terrorists killed in front of her after making sure he was not a Muslim said she lost her father in the terror attack but gained two brothers, both Muslim.**

said and suggested that agreement or disagreement must always be done with "decency and within constitutional rights".

To expose him as a coward is the ultimate condemnation of a terrorist. He is not armed with logic or rationale and hence dare not present them before the authorities concerned; he cannot convert people from the other side to his for the same reason; he cannot fight his equals. Hence he arms himself with weapons and takes on unarmed people.

But the hate-mongers are mimicking the act of the very same terrorists whom they claim to despise. They do not understand the logic of humanity; they cannot comprehend the words of the heroic people who stand up for justice and humaneness; they are unsure of their own goals. They are sure they cannot look into the eyes of a sensible human being and argue their case; and hence they train all their energies and convoluted logic on innocent and unsuspecting people, like the victims of the Pahalgam terrorist attack.

It is not the NCW or other government agencies that can defeat hate; it is the very same Indian people who defeated the terrorists in their game who can do it again. India must rise as one person and support the bravehearts who reflect the Indian ethos that has gained this nation its place in the comity of nations. Haters have no place in this country.

India prepares for eventualities

It has been decades since anything like a civil defence drill has been carried out nationwide, in about 300 districts. Among India's ageing generations, there may be a few million who remember the last time that the air raid sirens went off, and that was in the 1971, at the time of the India-Pakistan war in which East Pakistan was liberated and became Bangladesh. Today's generations may have heard what an air raid siren sounds like only in war movies and experienced blackouts only in power cuts.

To be prepared amid the escalating tensions with a terror-sponsoring nation like Pakistan would not be such a bad idea even if it may sound somewhat alarmist for the many millions who may be living far from the reach of our neighbour's ballistic missiles. But, given the march of technology, particularly in the offensive capabilities of the military-industrial complex that makes modern day arms, the wiser option would be to get ready for any eventuality.

Such is the unceasing obstinacy in Pakistan that it should keep eyeing Kashmir that has been an integral part of India since Maharaja Hari Singh decided to throw his lot in with Bharat on October 27, 1947. In the intervening years since the first India-Pakistan war of 1947-48 in which Pakistan occupied areas of Gilgit-Baltistan and the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), no territory has changed hands. And yet a campaign based on an insatiable territorial ambition is what is driving a nation that has often come to the brink of economic collapse.

As the officials would have it, "new and complex threats" have indeed emerged, and the drills planned for three days are part of a process by which India will be better prepared to withstand whatever consequences may arise if the country gives a fitting reply to the nefarious designs of Pakistan in exporting terror to Jammu & Kashmir. To have an idea of what the civilian population must do in the event of an attack is what the civil defence drills are about, and it will be a novel though scary experience for those who have never had to worry about air raids and wars. Such are the times we are living in.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

KAUSHIK MITTER  
Editor

K. SUDHAKAR  
Printer & Publisher

DECCAN CHRONICLE offices are located at:

**Hyderabad:** 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad - 500 003, Ph: 040-27803930-4; Fax : 040-27805256  
**Vijayawada:** No.C-3 & 4 Patamata, Industrial Estate, Auto Nagar, Vijayawada (A.P.), Ph: 0866-2555284.  
**Visakhapatnam:** Survey No.1/3A Beach Road, Near Kailasgiri Ropeway, Sector-9 MVP Colony, Visakhapatnam - 530 017 (A.P.) Ph: 0891-2552333/2552334; Fax: 0891-2755285  
**Rajahmundry:** Venagiri, Dhawaleswaram Rd, Rajahmundry, Ph: 0883-2417618/2417208; Telefax: 0883-2417208  
**Anantapur:** Thapovan colony, Bangalore By-Pass Road, Anantapur - 515004, Ph: 08554-276903; Fax: 08554-276904  
**Karimnagar:** H. No. 1-21-12/1, Cheralabhturk Road, Mugudhumpur Village, Karimnagar-505186, PH. NO. 9121181123.  
**Nellore:** Survey No.527/2, Burranpur Village, Venkatachalam (M), Chennudugunta Panchayat, Nellore, Ph: 0861-2348581/82; Telefax: 0861-2348580  
**Chennai:** SP-3 Developed Plot, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032, Ph: 044-22254747/ 48/50/51; Adv: Fax: 22254765/22254766/42305325  
**Coimbatore:** Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited, No. 2/22 Sengalipalayam Road, N.G.G.O Colony Post, Kurudampalayam village - 641 022

Subhani



Only profitable wars are those fought 'offshore'



Sanjeev Ahluwalia

The Second World War extinguished three per cent of the global population over the six years that it raged. About 80 million people died, mostly civilians, in the Soviet Union, China, Japan and Europe where the war was fought. It also decimated the economies of Europe and Japan. Europe's share in the global economy reduced from about 40 per cent, during the Great Depression in 1935, to 25 per cent by 1945.

There was only one winner — the United States which developed its manufacturing and infrastructure behind the grand isolation assured, in those days, by the Atlantic Ocean to the east and the Pacific Ocean on the west. By the end of the war, its share of global GDP was 40 per cent. To be sure, American GIs and officers died in the war. But their families back home lived safe and productive lives.

**Wars are best when off-shored:** The sobering lesson is that only wars fought offshore can be profitable, though it is undeniable that the United States used its war profits productively. It rebuilt devastated Japan and Europe, funded the creation of the United Nations to prevent and ameliorate the impact of conflict, the International Monetary Fund to promote fiscal and price stability and the World Bank to fund post-war reconstruction and later development.

All three did the job well. The question today is whether China, the contender for the global pole position, is similarly committed to exercise its dominant economic power in trade and manufacturing for global benefit or whether it will continue transactional agreements to maximise profits? Admittedly, the new trend set by America in Ukraine is uninspiring. **India's experience:** Even short wars are expensive.

India's post-Independence wars have been short. The 1962 war with China lasted for one month till the Chinese withdrew unilaterally. Nevertheless, growth in gross value added dipped from 3.1 per cent earlier to 2.1 per cent in that year.

In 1965 India responded to "Operation Gibraltar", an assault by Pakistan on India. The war lasted for seven weeks. Growth was a negative -3.6 per cent, versus 7.6 per cent in the previous year, though drought combined with war to deplete growth.

The 1972 war to assist the Mukti Bahini against Pakistan's oppressive regime in East Bengal was a response to pre-emptive air strikes on India by Pakistan. It lasted just 12 days. Growth fell from 6.5 per cent earlier to 5.0 per cent. It reduced further to one per cent in 1972 and to negative growth in 1973 though, yet again, drought aggravated the economic impact.

This dataset supports the IMF assessment that conflict, even in the short term, reduces GDP by one to two percentage points. South Asia also loses from war between Pakistan and India, despite regional cross-border trade being low at five per cent versus 25 per cent in next door Southeast Asia. War will further postpone regional economic integration. Cross-border discord will heighten as existing, albeit sparse, B2B and P2P relationships get shredded. The ill-advised notion, voiced in Bangladesh by some recently — albeit not supported by the government — of joining with China to annex India's Northeast if India attacks Pakistan, speaks to the kind of hysteria war clouds generate.

**Playing into China's game plan:** Who gains? The clear winner is China. War would retard India's growth, further compromising its capacity to "manage" China. Should

**Even short wars are expensive. India's post-Independence wars have been short. The 1962 war with China lasted for one month. Nevertheless, growth in gross value added dipped from 3.1 per cent earlier to 2.1 per cent in that year.**

this not worry the US? That depends on whether they view India as a "client state" or a significant "partner". As a client state, dependent on the US for assistance, technology and geo-political heft, India's reliance would increase, which might suit America in the short term. However, as a "partner state", independently capable of investing in aligning strategic focus, a weakened India could become less useful in shoring up democracy and fair trade in the Indo-Pacific. Sadly, America's own continued commitment to these strategic principles is now in doubt.

**Spend to maintain peace, not to fund war:** If India is to remain self-reliant, it must spend to maintain the peace not to fund a war. Domestic reform to unleash private investment, enhance fiscal stability and negotiate plurilateral investment and trade treaties integrating India into strategic global goals selectively are key. The problem is domestic. The government must enlarge the domestic negotiating space to integrate, discordant segments — farmers and small business — representing about one-half of the popular vote? Over the past decade, welfare measures — both private and community-based — have ballooned, undergirding the incomes of the bottom one-third of the population and protecting families from falling back into dire poverty (below PPP \$2.15 per person day). Doing more of the same at higher levels, as applicable for lower middle-income economies (PPP \$3.65 per person per day), implies additional targeted assistance for about one-third of the population, equal to about 11 per cent of current GDP. **Catch-22:** With government revenues at about 17

per cent of GDP, enhancing welfare support is affordable only if the economy grows faster — which war would inhibit. A balance between indirect incentives to promote employment linked income enhancement and direct welfare support is therefore a sensible compromise. Allowing state governments to design the incentives can help reflect contextual specificities and opportunities. Sadly, we have been negligent in the devolution of powers, particularly to cities and villages, where the space for negotiating proposals for "shared growth" exists since communities live in proximity. Technocratically devised plans in remote New Delhi, in contrast, lack context and specificity. The Belfast "Good Friday Agreement" in 1998 ended three decades of intense sectarian violence in Northern Ireland. It was based on devolution of more powers from the UK government to Northern Ireland. Experimenting with devolution to enhance equity can also spur growth. India is a relatively young democracy and, like Pakistan, very culturally diverse.

Unlike Pakistan, political power in India still flows from the people and we have not succumbed to monotheism of any kind. Contestation between political parties is at the heart of Indian democracy, unlike in homogenous China. The ensuing complex political web of accommodations and compromise is not a design fault. Admittedly it slows down development. But it provides a forum for the settlement of differences and active engagement to overcome shared challenges. The Covid-19 pandemic was one such. Dealing with external aggression is another unifying force, especially if it is a war that we neither provoked nor sought. Winning will require keeping our powder dry, garnering global support and continuing to invest in innovation, productivity and equity.

*The writer is Distinguished Fellow, Chintan Research Foundation, and was earlier with the IAS and the World Bank*

LETTERS

CIVIL DEFENCE

The drill involving 12 civil defence services in Hyderabad is a welcome step (*States told to hold civil defence drills, May 5*). To make such exercises truly effective, public participation must be prioritised. While government agencies train for coordinated disaster response, most citizens remain unaware of protocols, evacuation or shelter locations. Integrating groups into these drills can build grassroots preparedness. Civil defence is not about response, it's about building collective resilience.

Shilpa Bhaskaran  
Hyderabad

TG MUST STOP SOPS

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy clearly spelt out that the government staff and pensioners cannot expect to their demands to be met, citing mismanagement by the previous government (*TG on brink of bankruptcy: CM, May 5*). The state must immediately stop undue benefits in the name of welfare schemes. It should reconsider policies for vote banks and help those who are in real need, and bring the state economy back on track.

S. Chandrasekaran  
Secunderabad

ETALA'S REBUKE

BJP MP Etala Rajendar has criticised the financial situation under the Congress government (*Etala criticises TG economy situation, May 26*). He was finance minister under the BRS from 2014 to 2018 and thereafter T. Harish Rao. They were well-known for the mismanagement of state finances. The criticism should be meaningful and not just to be in the limelight after losing power.

Vishwanath Pandit  
Hyderabad

PENDING CASES

There needs to be segregation of cases wherein orders passed in earlier cases not executed leading to further litigation and filing of cases, to be attended leaving disposal of pending cases reduced (*Disposal rate improves, HC still has 2.45 L cases pending, May 5*). At the time of admission of petitions a time-bound disposal system will help.

Mangalampalli Satya Mohan Singh  
Secunderabad

Email your letters to  
info@deccanmail.com,  
editor@deccanmail.com.

K.J. Jacob

Will the next Pope follow Francis' line? Cardinals to gather for conclave today

The historic Sistine Chapel will host the Conclave of Cardinals from Wednesday, May 7, to elect the new Bishop of Rome, who will be the successor of Pope Francis and head of the Roman Catholic Church. It is estimated that 133 of the 135 cardinals eligible to vote in the election of the Pontiff will attend the conclave. The other 117 cardinals who are aged above 80 and hence ineligible will not be part of the exercise, which will culminate in the effusion of white smoke from the chimney of the chapel and the announcement by the cardinal dean to the world in Latin: "*habemus papam*" (we have got a pope).

The election of the Pope is a complex process. There indeed is an electoral roll but there is no candidates' list in a papal election. The electors would assemble at the Michelangelo-adorned 15th century chapel after spending days together in prayer in Rome after the passing of an incumbent Pope and would have an idea of possible and potential candidates. There is no stipulation that only a cardinal can be elected a Pope; a priest of five years who is eligible to be a bishop can be elected as per the canon law that governs the papal election. The last person who was elected Pope from outside the College of Cardinals was Urban VI in 1378.

The electors would start voting on the first day of the conclave. There will be four polls on each day: two in the morning and two in the evening. If there

is no conclusion by the 34th poll, then the number of candidates would be reduced to two, and there will be run-off polls till one of the two gets two-thirds of the votes. The chimney would emit a black fume after every unsuccessful poll, and a white one after the election. It would follow an announcement after seeking the elected person's concurrence.

Technicalities apart, the choice of the Roman pontiff has an impact outside the 110-acre Vatican state as the policies he pursues directly or indirectly touch the lives of millions of people, even outside the Catholic Church. Pope Francis, then Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio of Buenos Aires, was said to be the most favourite to succeed John Paul II, who died in 2005. However, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, a Vatican insider and a close associate of the Polish Pope, was chosen in the fourth poll despite his largely orthodox leanings on theology, for the cardinals wanted continuity of the policies of John Paul II with respect to theology. Pope Francis' election was also an easy process; a popular figure for his unassuming character and progressive ideas, he was elected in the fifth poll.

There are papables, the "would-be" Popes, this time too, including Luis Antonio Tagle from the Philippines, dubbed the "Asian Francis". However, every piece of news about the papabile would also come with the Italian adage: "Enter the

conclave as pope and leave as a cardinal".

The 110-crore strong Catholic Church is considered a management wonder with just two layers of authority — the bishops who come from all nooks and corners of the world make the first layer, and the second is made of just one man: the Pope. The cardinals, the patriarchs and the major archbishops who head divisions and local churches are all part of the hierarchy, but are subservient to the Holy See with little independent power.

The papacy of John XXIII (1958-1963) is considered a turning point in modern Church history as it opened the church to the world. It almost dropped its conservative theories on salvation, started dialogue with the other faiths and introduced changes in liturgy, giving local churches more say. Paul VI, who succeeded John XXIII, took the process ahead as he became the first Pope in modern times to travel widely outside Rome and interact with people of countries and all faiths. Pope Paul VI visited India in 1964 during his many travels around the world advocating peace. Pope John Paul I succeeded Pope Paul VI and had the shortest stint of 33 days before his sudden death in 1978. The affable Pope had left a lasting impression on his successor Cardinal Karol Józef Wojtyła, who assumed the name John Paul II on his election as Pope at the age of 58. The Polish Pope is largely credited with the crumbling of the Communist

influence in Eastern Europe and across the world, starting with the overthrow of the Communist dictatorship in his homeland, Poland. Considered a conservative in matters of faith, John Paul II, however, visited 129 countries, including India, during his 27-year reign from 1978 to 2005 as he initiated an intense dialogue with different faiths.

While Pope Benedict XVI, who succeeded John Paul II, confined himself to matters of religion and theology and became the first Pope to abdicate the position in modern times, his successor, Francis, changed the character of the Church by redefining the template with which it analysed its role in the world. Being human became the sole criteria to be considered a human being by the church; faith, colour, status, sexual orientation or even the past hardly mattered to Pope Francis when he met people and touched their lives. The three encyclicals he issued together sought to comprehensively address the concerns of the world and the last one, "Fratelli Tutti", all brothers, positioned him as the ultimate champion of brotherhood. "No one can face life in isolation," he said in the encyclical, and called upon people to "dream, then, as a single human family" in which we are "brothers and sisters all".

Only time can tell if his successor, the Vicar of Christ on earth, will take from where Pope Francis left.











SHORT TAKES

PM LAUDS HIS AUSTRALIAN COUNTERPART

New Delhi, May 6: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday made a congratulatory call to his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese on his re-election, and the two leaders agreed to work together with renewed vigour to advance the India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. He said on X, "Spoke with my friend Anthony Albanese to personally congratulate him on his party's historic victory. We agreed to work together with renewed vigour to advance the India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and explore new areas of cooperation."

CENTRE GRANTS IN-PRINCIPLE NOD TO PURI AIRPORT

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC BHUBANESWAR, MAY 6

In a major boost to infrastructure and religious tourism in Odisha, the Centre has accorded 'in-principle' approval for the development of a greenfield airport in the holy city of Puri. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi made the announcement on Tuesday, expressing his gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union civil aviation minister Rammohan Naidu Kinjarapu for the landmark decision. Taking to social media platform X, the Chief Minister shared, "In a huge boost to connectivity and religious tourism, the Central Government has granted in-principle approval for a new greenfield airport in Puri. Named the Shree Jagannath Airport, the ambitious infrastructure project will be developed over 1,164 acres at an estimated cost of ₹5,631 crore."

ARREST ORDERS AGAINST CHINMOY KRISHNA DAS

Dhaka, May 6: A Bangladesh court on Tuesday ordered the arrest of detained Hindu leader Chinmoy Krishna Das in four more cases, a day after the court took a similar action against him in a murder case. Chattogram Metropolitan Magistrate SM Alauddin Mahmud issued the order after a virtual hearing, state-run BSS news agency reported. A former ISKCON leader, Das, was arrested at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka on November 25 last year in a seditious case over alleged defamation of the national flag. His bail petition was rejected by a Chattogram court, which sent him to jail the next day.

MAOIST KILLED, NAXAL BUNKERS DESTROYED

DC CORRESPONDENT RAIPUR, MAY 6

Another female Maoist was gunned down as the biggest-ever counterinsurgency operation involving 24,000 jawans in the Karregutta hills along Chhattisgarh-Telangana border entered 16th day on Tuesday. The female Maoist's body was recovered at the encounter site on Monday taking the Naxal toll in the fortnight-long counterinsurgency operation in the lush green hilly terrain to four. Three other Maoists, slain during the operation on April 24, were also females.

Police suspect that several key Maoist leaders may have either been killed or injured in the operation. "The inputs available suggest that several top Maoist leaders have either been killed or grievously wounded in the ongoing anti-Naxal operation," a statement issued by the Bastar police said here on Tuesday.

The security forces could not recover bodies of all the Naxals killed in the operation due to the difficult geographical conditions, a police officer said. As many as seven jawans have so far been injured in the IED blasts during the operation. According to the police, a CRPF assistant commandant Sagar Borade was injured during the operation on Sunday and he was airlifted to AIIMS, Delhi, for treatment on Monday. His condition is stated to be stable now. Besides, two jawans of special task force were injured in the improvised explosive device explosion on Sunday.

The anti-Naxal operation code named Mission Sankalp, was launched in the Karregutta hills on April 21 to free an 800 sq km area, considered a Naxal stronghold.

# Indus will flow in India's interest: Modi

Mocking Oppn, PM says former govts had to consider many factors before taking any major decision

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC NEW DELHI, MAY 6

In a clear message to Pakistan on Tuesday evening, two weeks after India put the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) of 1960 with that country in abeyance in the wake of the terror attack in Pahalgal, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared that while earlier "India's share of waters was going outside", the "waters would now flow as per India's interests, be stopped in India's interests and be used only for India".

Speaking at an event organised by a media group in the Capital, Modi said, "Earlier the water meant for Indians was going outside. 'Ab Bharat ka paani, Bharat ke haq me bahega, Bharat ke Haq me rukega aur Bharat ke hi kaam ayege...' (But now, the water from India will flow in India's interest. The water will be stopped in India's interest and will be used only for India)."

Amid mounting political and military tensions with Pakistan, he said India has "strength, resources and resolve". He said that to take big decisions, the country's interests have to be paramount. In a jibe at the Opposition, he said earlier governments had to consider many factors like global opinion, vote bank politics and political power, before taking a big decision.

Reports had claimed India has restricted the flow of water through the Baglihar Dam on the Chenab River and is planning similar measures at the Kishanganga Dam on the Jhelum River. The reports cited sources who said these hydroelectric dams — Baglihar in Ramban in Jammu and Kishanganga in north Kashmir — offer India the ability to regulate the timing of water releases. Under the IWT, which was signed by former PM Jawaharlal Nehru and Pakistan's then president Ayub Khan in 1960, water of six rivers — Beas, Ravi, Sutlej, Indus, Chenab and Jhelum — were to be shared between the two countries.

DISPOSAL OF BHOPAL GAS TRAGEDY REMAINS BEGINS

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, MAY 6

The disposal of 328-tonne toxic remains of the 1984 Bhopal gas tragedy has finally begun at the incineration facility at Pithampur in Dhar district in Madhya Pradesh on Monday evening.

According to Srinivas Dwivedy, regional officer of Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board (MPPCB), said that it may take around 55 days to completely burn the entire toxic waste.

A recent directive by the Madhya Pradesh High Court has set in motion the process to dispose of the toxic waste, nearly four decades after the tragic leakage of the deadly methyl isocyanate at Union Carbide plant in Bhopal on the intervening night of December 2 and December 3, 1984, leading to the death of around 5,000 people. A three-phase trial run was conducted between February 12 and March 12 to burn the toxic waste.

Around 344 tonnes of toxic waste were kept in sealed packets inside the premises of the plant after the incident, billed as the world's worst industrial disaster. The wastes were shifted in a dozen sealed containers from Bhopal to Pithampur in January for disposal.

Dwivedy said the incineration of the toxic waste is done at the rate of 270 kg per hour.

Online continuous monitoring system has been installed to monitor release of hydrogen chloride, sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide from the smoke coming out of the chimney of the blast furnace following incineration of the waste, sources said.



Kashmiri musicians Shadaab and Azhar perform in a park in Srinagar as security personnel stand guard amid high alert on Tuesday. **Right:** Village women clean a bunker at a village near the India - Pakistan International border in Ranbir Singh Pura, in Jammu. — PTI



## Rafale, Mirage, Sukhoi to fly today

PAWAN BALI | DC NEW DELHI, MAY 6

As tensions escalate with Pakistan, the Indian Air Force's frontline fighter aircraft like the *Rafale*, *Sukhoi-30s* *Mirage 2000* will be taking part in a two-day air exercise in the Rajasthan sector along the Indo-Pak border from Wednesday. In the course of the exercise, the IAF will hit simulated enemy targets on ground and in the air.

Indian Navy too has been conducting firing exercise in the Arabian Sea. The drills will coincide with nationwide civil defence preparations in event of hostile military action.

A 'notice to airmen' has been issued for May 7 and 8, close to the western border, and mainly in Rajasthan. During this period airspace in the region will be restricted to

ensure safety and operational integrity.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday for the second straight day met National Security Adviser Ajit Doval to assess the situation in Kashmir and the government's next actions against Pakistan.

The Prime Minister on Monday had held a series of meetings with defence secretary Rajesh Kumar



Singh, NSA Doval and home secretary Govind Mohan.

Last week, in a meeting with the top defence brass, Modi gave the armed forces "complete operational freedom" to decide on the mode, targets and timing of the response to the Pahalgal terror attack which killed 26 tourists.

Modi also emphasised the national resolve to deal a "crushing blow to terrorism".

## Don't trouble innocents: Omar

DC CORRESPONDENT SRINAGAR, MAY 6

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday raised concerns amid reports of the police and other law enforcement agencies in their tough counter-terrorism campaign following the Pahalgal terror attack allegedly targeting civilians. He called for a cautious and restrained approach from the concerned authorities in response to the April 22 gory incident.

"We all understand the situation here, but we must look into it so that we don't affect the innocent people of Jammu & Kashmir in our efforts to catch those who were involved in the Pahalgal attack". He added, "In the effort to get hold of those responsible for the Pahalgal incident, innocent people must not suffer."

## Qatar Amir offers India full support

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, MAY 6

The ruler (Amir) of Qatar called up Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday and "expressed full support in India's fight against terrorism and all its actions to bring the perpetrators of the cross-border terror attack in Pahalgal to justice", New Delhi said. Qatar's position could come as a shock to Islamabad which has been engaging the Gulf nation in the wake of mounting Indo-Pak tensions.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on X, "In a telephonic conversation with PM@narendramodi, the Amir of the State of Qatar, HH Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani@TamimBinHamad conveyed condolences and solidarity with the people of India at the loss of lives in the cross border terror attack in Pahalgal, India."

## PM cancelled visit after report: Cong.

Ranchi, May 6: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday claimed Prime Minister Narendra Modi had cancelled his Kashmir visit after "receiving an intelligence report three days before" the Pahalgal terror attack last month.

Noting that during an all-party meeting, the Centre accepted "intelligence failure" in the Pahalgal carnage, Kharge said the union government should be held accountable for "not reinforcing" security arrangements in Kashmir to protect people, even after such inputs.

Responding to Kharge's allegation, the BJP claimed that the Congress president's criticism of PM Modi over alleged intelligence failure in the Pahalgal terror attack was intended to "lower the morale of security forces" and amounted to "treason". — PTI

# India ready for nationwide mock drill to be held today

New Delhi, May 6: The stage is set for a nationwide mock drill on Wednesday with all states and Union territories preparing to operationalise air-raid sirens and train people on evacuation protocols and cleaning of bunkers and trenches among other steps in the event of a "hostile attack".

The emergency preparedness, the first perhaps since 1971, will be conducted by most states from 4 pm.

Sources said the number of volunteers associated with this drill would be around 6 lakh but the final number could be more.

The drill follows the Union home ministry's communication on Monday to states and Union territories to conduct the drills due to the "new and complex threats" that have emerged amid rising tensions with Pakistan following the April 22 Pahalgal terror attack that claimed 26 lives.

The authorities in all states will involve stu-



School students in Jammu take part in a drill as they prepare for the nationwide civil defence drill exercise scheduled Wednesday. — PTI

dents of educational institutions, employees of government and private organisations, hospital staff, railway and metro officials, besides uniformed personnel of the police, paramilitary and defence forces, while conducting the mock drills, the sources said.

Most vulnerable places include metro cities like Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai and Kolkata and cities

that have vital installations like nuclear facilities or are along the border, they said.

"The civil defence authorities are going to check the capabilities of all these zones and wherever something is lacking or not working, these will be rectified," a source said. This exercise of identifying site spots will continue for next three days. — PTI

## BJP TELLS CADRE, CITIZENS TO TAKE PART IN DRILL

New Delhi, May 6: The BJP on Tuesday appealed to people across the country to join the mock drill on May 7, an exercise the Union ministry of home affairs (MHA) has asked all states and UTs to undertake to prepare for any "hostile attack" amid rising tensions with Pakistan following the Pahalgal terror strike. Party MPs and MLAs are expected to be a part of the exercise.

According to a communication from the MHA, the measures to be taken during the mock drill include the operationalisation of air-raid warning sirens, training civilians on civil-defence aspects to protect themselves during hostile attacks and cleaning bunkers and trenches apart from crash-blackout measures. — PTI

QUEEN'S | BIOPIC

Film City in Goregaon has been given the task to execute the film project

# Maha to make movie on Ahilyabai Holkar

Ahilyanagar, May 6: Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Tuesday announced a series of decisions centred around the legacy of erstwhile Indore queen Ahilyabai Holkar, including a film on her life and schemes aimed at the welfare of the Dhangar (shepherd) community.

For the first time, the state Cabinet convened at Chondi village in Ahilyanagar (formerly Ahmednagar), the birthplace of Holkar. To mark her tercentenary year, the Cabinet approved the pro-

duction of a biographical film on her life. The movie will be made in Marathi and other regional languages, and will be broadcast on Doordarshan and various OTT platforms. Film City in Goregaon has been tasked with executing the project, the Chief Minister said.

The Cabinet also sanctioned ₹10.50 crore for the Adishakti Mission, a programme aimed at the empowerment of women. The government will establish a 430-bed hospital and a medical college in Ahilyanagar district,



Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis felicitated by Holkar family 16th descendant Yashwantrao Holkar at Chaundi on Tuesday. — PTI

with a total allocation of ₹458 crore, the Chief Minister said after chair-

ing the Cabinet meeting. To honour the contributions of Indore King Raja

Yeshwantrao Holkar, especially in education (1797-1811), the Cabinet approved the enrolment of Dhangar community students in reputed residential schools, the CMO said in a statement.

Between 2021 to 22 and 2024 to 25, 31,300 students have been enrolled in 162 schools under this initiative, with ₹288 crore disbursed so far.

The Cabinet also approved the construction of hostels for meritorious Dhangar students at the revenue division headquarters in Navi Mumbai,

Pune, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, Nashik, Nagpur, and Amravati.

Each hostel will accommodate 200 students — 100 male and 100 female. Construction has already begun in Nashik, with Pune and Nagpur projects to begin shortly. Fadnavis said an industrial training institute exclusively for girl students will be established in Ahilyanagar district. Additionally, ₹75 crore has been sanctioned for the restoration and rejuvenation of water bodies originally built by Ahilyabai Holkar. — PTI



## SHORT TAKES

## 3 DIE AS U.S. BOAT CAPSIZES, 2 INDIANS INJURED

New York, May 6: Three people were killed and seven others, including two Indian children, are missing after a small boat believed to be carrying migrants overturned in the Pacific Ocean off the coast near the US city of San Diego.

The boat carrying at least 16 people on board capsized on Monday about 15 miles north of downtown San Diego in California, along Torrey Pines State Beach. "Coast Guard Sector San Diego watchstanders at approximately 6,30 am received the report of the overturned panga-style vessel."

## FUGITIVE FLED FROM AIRPORT, NOW SEARCH ON

Seattle, May 6: A man fled custody inside Seattle-Tacoma International Airport and was able to take a light rail train into the city, authorities said.

Port of Seattle police were notified around 11 am on Sunday that a man had escaped from the airport while he was being taken to Kentucky, where he was wanted on warrants.

In a statement, airport spokesperson Perry Cooper said a "contracted agent" lost control of the suspect during the check-in process at the ticket counter of the airport and that he fled toward the light rail station.

## BAN UNDER-16S FROM SOCIAL MEDIA: NZ PM

Sydney, May 6: New Zealand's Prime Minister on Tuesday proposed banning children under 16 from social media, stressing the need to shield them from the perils of big tech platforms.

Regulators the world over are wrestling with how to keep children safe online, as social media is increasingly flooded with violent and disturbing content. PM Christopher Luxon unveiled draft laws that would force social media companies to verify users were at least 16 years old, or face fines of up to NZ\$2 million (\$1.2 million).

The proposed ban was modelled on strict laws.

## HARRY'S LAWYERS IN COURT VERSUS UK PUBLISHER

London, May 6: Lawyers for Prince Harry were back in court in London on Tuesday, days after he lost a legal fight with the government over his security arrangements and gave an emotional interview in which he said his father King Charles no longer spoke to him.

Along with singer Elton John and five other high-profile UK figures, Harry is suing Associated Newspapers (ANL), alleging widespread unlawful behaviour. They accuse ANL of serious privacy breaches dating back 30 years, ranging from tapping their phones and bugging their homes.

## DUST STORM SWEEPS INTO IRAN, MANY HIT

Tehran, May 6: Iranian authorities ordered schools and offices closed in seven western provinces on Tuesday as a dust storm swept in from neighbouring Iraq, with around 13 million people told by authorities to stay indoors.

Khuzestan, Kermanshah, Ilam and Kurdistan provinces were all affected, and state television cited local officials as blaming the closures on high levels of accumulated dust.

Government and private offices also shut in several provinces, including Kermanshah and Ilam, as well as Khuzestan in the southwest.

## U.S. CLIMBER TRIES TO SCALE MT MAKALU, DIES

Kathmandu, May 6: An American climber died while attempting to scale Mount Makalu in Nepal, officials said.

Nepal's mountaineering department identified the climber who died on Sunday on the slopes of the world's fifth tallest mountain as 39-year-old Alexander Pancoe. The statement said the climber from Chicago was descending from Camp Three to Camp Two on the mountain when he suffered from cardiac arrest. Attempts are being made to bring the body down from the mountain to Kathmandu.

## Merz appointed chancellor of Germany after historic defeat

Elected in 2nd round vote; interim PM in Romania after coalition's defeat

Berlin, May 6: German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier appointed conservative leader Friedrich Merz as chancellor on Tuesday, after lawmakers elected Merz to the post in a second-round vote.

The appointment in the presidential palace officially marks the start of Merz's time in office, following a dramatic day in the Bundestag in which Merz initially failed to gain the necessary majority of MPs but prevailed in the second vote.

Merz won a nail-biter second vote in Parliament to become chancellor after he lost the first round in a stunning early setback.

Merz, 69, scored an absolute majority of 325 against 289 in the secret vote in the lower house of Parliament.

He takes over at the helm of a coalition between his CDU/CSU alliance and the centre-left Social Democrats (SPD) of the outgoing chancellor, Olaf Scholz.

He was appointed post-war Germany's 10th chancellor, along with his Cabinet. Merz is due to visit Paris and then Warsaw on Wednesday.

His victory caps a long ambition to lead Europe's biggest economy, which was first foiled decades ago by party rival Angela Merkel who went on to serve as chancellor for 16 years. Merz's eventual victory on Tuesday was bittersweet as the initial defeat — the first such outcome in Germany's post-war history — pointed

## NUMBERS GAME

TWO-AND-A-HALF MONTHS AGO: FRIEDRICH MERZ'S CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS WON GERMANY'S FEDERAL ELECTION.

630 seats in the Bundestag. 316 votes needed to win.

310 seats was what he managed.

328 seats is what Merz and the centre-left Social Democrats have after announcement of an unusual coalition agreement last month.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.

Merz should step aside and the way should be cleared for a general election."

— ALICE WEIDEL, AfD co-leader had said earlier.



quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	80,641.07	-0.19
Nifty 50	24,379.60	-0.33
S&P 500*	5,620.52	-0.53
Dollar (₹)	84.43	0.20
Pound Sterling (₹)	112.44	0.30
Euro (₹)	95.51	-0.04
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	96,894.22	2.37
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	62.62	3.97
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.350	0.027
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	4.337	-0.006

\* As of 8:30 PM IST

Five firms get approval for IPO from Sebi

Five companies initial public offerings (IPOs) proposals were cleared by Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) last week as per latest updates provided by Sebi. Veritas Finance, Laxmi India Finance, Ajay Poly, Regaal Resources and Jaajoo Rashmi Refractories have received Sebi approval for their IPOs as per details available. These five companies their observations during April 29-30, the data showed.



BoB Q4 net up by 3% to ₹5,048 cr in March quarter

Bank of Baroda (BoB) on Tuesday reported a 3 per cent rise in net profit at ₹5,048 crore for March quarter of FY25. It had earned a net profit of ₹4,886 crore in the year-ago period. "Margins have been under pressure due to competitive interest rates on deposits. However, the improvement in liquidity and repo rate cuts will provide a conducive environment for margins," Debaddatta Chand, MD and CEO, BoB, said.

Adani Power gets 1,500 MW project from UP for 25 yrs

Adani Power has won a contract to supply 1,500 MW of electricity to Uttar Pradesh (UP) at ₹5.38 per unit for 25 years, sources said. The Uttar Pradesh government has approved signing of a power purchase agreement (PPA) between Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation and Adani Power for supply of thermal power for 25 years, they said. The power will be supplied from a new plant that will be set up in UP.

Rilox EV to deploy 20,000 2-wheelers in operations

Electric vehicle player Rilox EV has forged a multi-year OEM partnership with multi-modal electric mobility platform Hala Mobility to deploy its Spark Lite electric two-wheeler for gig workers, urban commuters and fleet operators. The alliance will see deployment of close to 20,000 electric two-wheelers in these segments, starting with low-speed models and also extending to high-speed variants, Rilox said.

Printed & Published by K. Sudhakar on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited. Printed at Deccan Chronicle Press at Deccan Chronicle Holdings Ltd. #563/9/D&9/E, Behind Andhra Bank Pet Basheerbagh, Kompally, Ranga Reddy Dist. Editor: Kaushik Mitter, RNI Reg No.APENG/2008/24282. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission of The Editor, Financial Chronicle is prohibited.

99% of Indian exports, 90% of UK products to face zero duty

Pact eases mobility of professionals; Indian youngsters can work in Britain

FROM PAGE 1

It will unleash opportunities for businesses across regions and nations of UK with 85 per cent of these becoming fully tariff-free within a decade".

Almost 90 per cent of British products will face lower tariff in India.

According to the Indian statement, the FTA "ensures comprehensive market access for goods, across all sectors, covering all of India's export interests" and that it would "gain from tariff elimination on about 99 per cent of the tariff lines covering almost 100 per cent of the trade value offering huge opportunities for increase in the bilateral trade between India and the UK".

The FTA "opens up massive export opportunities for labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, marine products, leather, footwear, sports goods and toys, gems and jewellery, and other important sectors such as engineering goods, auto parts and engines, and organic chemicals".

It also mentioned a "significant boost to trade in services, such as IT/ITeS, financial services, professional services, other business services and educational services, besides stronger strategic alignment and greater global mobility for aspirational young Indians."

Britain also said "whisky and gin tariffs will be halved from 150 per cent to 75 per cent before reducing to 40 per cent by year ten of the deal, while automotive tariffs will go from over 100 per cent to 10 per cent under a quota".

The British government, in a statement, said "other goods with reduced tariffs ... include cosmetics, aerospace, lamb, medical devices, salmon, electrical machinery, soft drinks, chocolate and biscuits" and termed the pact as a "multi-billion-pound boost to UK's economy".

India called the free trade agreement with Britain as a "modern, comprehensive and landmark agreement."

Duty Free

WHAT IS FTA?

FTA is an arrangement between two or more countries where they agree either to end or reduce customs duties on the maximum number of goods traded between them, besides cutting down non-trade barriers.

INDIA'S SIGNED TRADE DEALS

India has inked trade deals with Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Korea, Japan, Australia, UAE, Mauritius, the 10-nation bloc Asean, and four European nations' bloc EFTA.

MORE FREE TRADE DEALS IN PIPELINE

India is negotiating trade agreements at present with the US, Oman, the European Union (EU), Peru, and Israel.

BENEFITS OF FTAs

ZERO-DUTY entry into partner country markets helps in diversification and expansion of export markets.

FTAs enable preferential treatment in the partner country market over non-FTA member country rivals.

THEY allow access to raw materials, intermediate products and capital goods for value-added manufacturing.

THE UK will charge zero duty on minerals, chemicals, gems and jewellery, plastic, rubber, wood, paper, textile, clothing, glass, ceramic, base metals, mechanical and electrical machinery, arms, auto, furniture, sports goods, animal products, and processed food.

TARIFFS ON auto imports will go from over 100 per cent to 10 per cent on both sides.

Talks for bilateral investment treaty between two countries are still going on

The import duty on whisky and gin from the UK will be cut to 75 per cent initially and to 40 per cent by the 10th year.

The deal will create new job opportunities as well as benefit a large number of Indians working in the UK.

Textiles, pharma, jewellery biz to get boost with FTA

SANGEETHA G. CHENNAI, MAY 6

The India-UK trade deal will benefit exports of textiles and apparels, leather and footwear, gems and jewellery, pharmaceuticals, and processed foods apart from boosting IT and professional services.

On the other hand, India will lower tariffs on cars, whiskey, gin, medical devices, aeronautical and electrical products as well as certain food products.

"The trade deal is a landmark step that will significantly boost bilateral trade, attract strategic

investments, and further integrate Indian businesses into the global value chain," said Federation of Indian Export Organisations.

The India-UK FTA eliminates or significantly reduces tariffs on a wide range of Indian goods, giving Indian exporters preferential access to one of the world's most affluent and consumption-driven markets.

Textiles and apparel will benefit from the removal of tariffs as it will enhance India's competitiveness against countries like Bangladesh and Vietnam. "In 2024, the UK

imported T&A products worth about \$27 billion from across the world. India is the 4th largest supplier with 6.6 per cent share," said Chandrima Chatterjee, secretary general of CITI.

Leather and footwear will get increased access to high-end UK retail markets. Gems and jewellery exporters will get a boost for India's handcrafted products and streamlined regulatory processes will accelerate generic pharmaceutical approvals.

The trade deal will also provide better access for value-added products, including tea, spices, fish, rice, and ready-to-eat segments.

Markets underperform on Indo-Pak tensions

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, MAY 6

Broader market companies shares went into a tailspin as investors caution rose across the board on tense Indo-Pak border situation. Also poor fourth quarter performance by Bank of Baroda hit PSU bank shares. BSE mid-cap and small-cap index were down by 2.16 per cent and 2.33 per cent respectively amid growing concern arising out of recent Indian government moves of nation wide security drill.

Sensex fell 0.19 per cent or 155.77 points to close at 80,641 while Nifty-50 fell 0.33 per cent or 81.55 points to 24,379.60.

Stock market investors

notional wealth was down by ₹6.16 lakh crore as BSE's market capitalisation fell to ₹421.31 lakh cr.

However, foreign investors were not bothered and bought equities worth ₹3,794.52 crore on Tuesday compared to ₹497.79 crore on Monday.

Domestic institutions were net sellers by ₹1,397.68 crore as against Monday's net buying of ₹2,788.66 crore. "Market volatility was further aggravated by escalating geopolitical tensions between India and Pakistan, coupled with uncertainty surrounding the US Fed's upcoming interest rate decision," said Siddhartha Khemka, head - Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services.



Average cash withdrawals from ATMs at 1.3 cr in FY25

SANGEETHA G. CHENNAI, MAY 6

Despite the increased usage of UPI, the average cash dispensed per ATM has increased in the past eight years to ₹1.3 crore in FY25. North Indian states dominate in the dispensation of cash.

From ₹1.02 crore in FY17, average cash withdrawal per ATM has increased to ₹1.30 crore in FY25. ATM cash dispensation has seen a consistent uptick since FY17, barring a slump in FY21 due to the impact of Covid.

Bihar, New Delhi, Uttar

Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Chhattisgarh are top states in terms of cash consumption, according to CMS Consumption Report 2025.

There has been an increase in ticket size of ATM withdrawals. The average ticket size (ATS) of ATM withdrawals in FY25 was ₹5,658, registering a y-o-y growth of 3 per cent. Further, few months witnessed a higher growth in ticket size at 4-6 per cent.

In contrast, the ATS of all UPI transactions dropped by 8 per cent from ₹1,603 in H1 2023 to ₹1,478 in H1 2024.

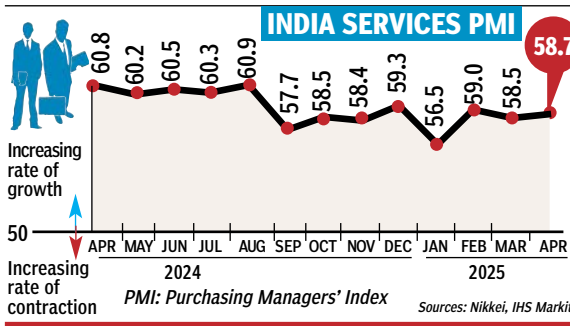
Services PMI picks up growth in April again

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO NEW DELHI, MAY 6

India's services sector regained momentum in April after a slowdown in March, mainly due to stronger growth in new businesses and output, a survey showed on Tuesday.

Alongside this positive trend, the capacity pressures continued to build, with unfinished work rising solidly. Besides, the increase in new orders also underpinned a faster expansion in employment, the survey showed.

As per the survey, the seasonally adjusted HSBC India services purchasing managers' index (PMI) rose to 58.7 in April from 58.5 in March, staying well above the 50-mark print that signals expansion, though it is still below



February's 59.

Pranjul Bhandari, chief India economist at HSBC said that India services activity rose at faster pace than last month. "New export orders gained the momentum after taking a breather in March, accelerating at its fastest pace since July 2024," she said.

The survey further noted that on the pricing

INDIAN EMPLOYEES CAN AVOID PAYING SOCIAL FUNDS IN UK

New Delhi, May 6: India and the UK on Tuesday announced the conclusion of negotiations for a social security pact, which would help avoid double contribution to social security funds by Indian professionals working for a limited period in Britain.

The announcement of the Double Contribution Convention agreement was made along with the free trade agreement between the two countries.

Presently, Indian professionals working for a limited period in Britain contribute to their social security funds, but are not able to get their benefits as they return once the projects are complete.

It was a long-standing demand of Indian businesses operating in Britain to cut down on the additional cost burden associated with bringing in skilled Indian professionals on a short-term basis.

The compulsory National Insurance (NI) contributions of skilled Indian professionals in the UK on temporary visas remain an additional cost burden of about 500 British pounds per employee a year, over and above all other taxes and health surcharge paid towards the National Health Service (NHS), as per 2021 data.

India has social security agreements with countries like Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, France, Denmark, South Korea, and the Netherlands.

Thus, Indians going abroad for employment are not required to contribute towards social security schemes in these countries.

They and their employers can continue with social security schemes run by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation here in India while serving abroad. — PTI

Apple to make all iPhones in India: Scindia

FC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, MAY 6

Union telecom minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Tuesday said that Apple would soon manufacture all iPhones in India in the coming years. The minister also said investment in India at present makes economic sense for every original equipment manufacturer.

"India's policy environment and expanding manufacturing ecosystem are making it an increasingly attractive destination for global tech firms," he said while inaugurating Bharat Telecom 2025 in the capital.

Citing Apple's plans to source and produce most iPhones sold in the US from India, Scindia also said that investing in the country today is not just about goodwill, but a sound economic decision for every original equipment manufacturer (OEM).

"Apple has decided to source and produce all its mobile phones in India in the years to come. When you invest in India, you are choosing affordability, reliability and originality," he added.

Recently, Apple chief executive officer Tim Cook had announced during the company's earnings call that the company would source the majority of the iPhones sold in the US from India in the June quarter, while China will produce the vast majority of the devices for other markets amid uncertainty over tax tariffs.

During the presentation, Jyotiraditya also highlighted all achievements of the government taken for the telecom sector in the country. "In just 22 months, we connected 99 per cent of our villages with 5G and brought 82 per cent of our population



INVESTING in the country today is not just about goodwill, but a sound economic decision for every OEM. Apple has decided to source and produce all its mobile phones in India in the years to come. When you invest in India, you are choosing affordability, reliability and originality.

—JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA, Union telecom minister

onto the network, deploying 4,70,000 towers - this is not evolution; it is a telecom revolution. This digital highway we have built across India is not merely about communication - it is the infrastructure of infrastructure, empowering 1.4 billion citizens with access to healthcare, education, governance, and economic opportunity," Scindia said.

The minister also pointed out that India has not only caught up with the world in areas like 4G and 5G, but is now leading the charge, with sweeping reforms and technological innovation shaping the country's trajectory.

"The role of India's telecom sector as a transformative force and described the nation's evolution from expensive, limited mobile access in the 1990s to now being the world's second-largest telecom market and the cheapest data provider," he said.

Hyundai's Creta most selling SUV in India

FC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MAY 6

Hyundai Motor India Limited (HMIL) announced that Hyundai Creta SUV has emerged as the highest-selling model in the Indian automobile industry for the second consecutive month.

Hyundai Creta recorded 17,016 unit sales in April, with a year-on-year growth of 10.2 per cent compared to April 2024. It also maintained its leadership as India's best-selling sport utility vehicle (SUV) from January - April 2025, with a cumulative sale of 69,914 units.

This performance of Creta has helped SUV contribution to Hyundai Motor India Limited's domestic sales to all time high of 70.9 per cent in

April 2025. This underscores the growing consumer preference for Hyundai's SUV lineup.

"Being the best-selling car across all segments for two months in a row and the top-selling sport utility vehicle in the industry for the first four months of 2025 cumulatively is a proud achievement for us. The addition of the electric powertrain has further strengthened the brand Creta. Now, it is also a key enabler in India's electric mobility journey," said Tarun Garg, whole-time director and chief operating officer, Hyundai Motor India Limited.

With over a decade of presence, it has seen sales of more than 1.2 million happy customers, a release said.



Hospitality firm announces 1st LXR Hotels & Resorts property in India

MEGA | SHOW

B. KRISHNA MOHAN BENGALURU, MAY 6

Hospitality major Hilton is significantly increasing its footprint in India, with plans to triple its luxury portfolio in coming years.

Hilton is reinforcing its position as a leading player in India's luxury and lifestyle hospitality sector. With plans for continued expansion, the company is poised to contribute significantly to the growing tourism and hospitality landscape, the company said this at its first-ever

Brand Showcase event in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

The event, held at Hilton Bengaluru Embassy Manyata Business Park, showcased 10 of Hilton's 24 brands, spanning luxury, lifestyle, and focused service segments. Hilton also announced its first LXR Hotels & Resorts property in India, set to open in Bengaluru in 2026.

Chris Nassetta, president and chief executive officer of Hilton, emphasised that India is a cornerstone of Hilton's global growth strategy. "As one of the



world's largest and most dynamic markets, India presents a significant opportunity across both luxury and premium economy segments," he said.

Alan Watts, president, Asia Pacific, Hilton, said, "With more than 1,000

hotels across Asia Pacific, and plans to grow to 10 times our current portfolio in India with our SLA partners, our commitment to this region is stronger than ever. With strong momentum in 2025 and a clear vision for the future, we are investing, expanding, and ensuring Hilton has a presence everywhere our guests want to travel in India."

"India is bold, fast-moving, and shaping the way the world travels. Our goal here is to meet guests wherever they are, with

the right brand, in the right place, at the right time," said Alexandra Jaritz, senior vice president, brand management, Asia Pacific, Hilton.

Hilton's expansion plans include new hotels and brands, such as the Waldorf Astoria in Jaipur and Conrad Hotels & Resorts, which will cater to luxury travelers. Hilton also spotlighted its lifestyle and focused service brands, including Signia by Hilton, Curio Collection by Hilton, and Spark by Hilton.



ORANGE	PURPLE
 Suryakumar Yadav, MI 510	 Prasidh Krishna, GT 20
Sudarshan Sai, GT 509	Hazlewood, RCB 18
Virat Kohli, RCB 505	Trent Boult, MI 17



### SRIDHAR TO TRAIN SRI LANKAN CRICKET SIDES

New Delhi, May 6: Former India fielding coach R. Sridhar of Hyderabad will conduct a comprehensive 10-day programme for Sri Lankan cricketers at various levels from Wednesday, the country's cricket board announced.

Sridhar, a BCCI Level 3 coach, will be involved with the Lankan men's and women's national squads, emerging squads, premier club players, the Under 19 team, and the Women's 'A' team.

Sridhar will conduct fielding drills, skill-specific training, and simulated match scenarios, to replicate game conditions.

"The specialised programme is to elevate the fielding standards of Sri Lankan cricketers. Sridhar brings in a wealth of experience, having served as India's fielding coach across more than 300 international matches from 2014 to 2021," Sri Lanka Cricket said in a statement on Tuesday.



Shrivalli Rashmikaa Bhamidipaty (left) and her partner Alexandra Shubladze pose with their trophies at the Lopota Open in Georgia.

### RASHMIKAA RUNNER-UP AT GEORGIA TOURNEY

Hyderabad, May 6: Hyderabad tennis player Shrivalli Rashmikaa Bhamidipaty and her partner Alexandra Shubladze lost the women's doubles final at the Lopota W50 Open tennis tournament in Lopota, Georgia. In final, Rashmikaa & Alexandra went down to Rutuja Bhosale of India and Paige Hourigan of New Zealand with a 3-6, 2-6 scoreline.

**THE RESULT**

■ **Final:** Shrivalli Rashmikaa Bhamidipaty (India)/ Alexandra Shubladze (Russia) lost to Rutuja Bhosale (India)/ Paige Hourigan (New Zealand) 3-6, 2-6.

### HYDERABAD YMCA BEAT VPG BY A HUGE MARGIN

Hyderabad, May 6: YMCA Hyderabad proved too strong for Victory Playground, beating them 44-7 in their match at the LVR Memorial Basketball Championship being played at Victory Playground. In another match, YMCA Secunderabad outplayed Gymkhana Grounds 51-18.

**THE RESULTS**

■ YMCA Hyderabad bt VPG 44-7; YMCA Secunderabad bt Gymkhana Grounds 51-18; Keystone bt YMCA Hyderabad 67-47; Rising Stars bt VPG 57-35; Santhnagar bt Sainikpuri 60-38; Women — DBA bt YMCA Hyderabad 48-28.

# RAINBLOW!

## Titans beat Mumbai on last ball of rain-hit game

Mumbai, May 6: The IPL match between Mumbai Indians and Gujarat Titans twisted and turned thanks to two rain interruptions before the Titans won by three wickets under Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) method at the Wankhede Stadium here on Tuesday night.

As rain broke up the low-scoring game for a second time, the Titans were 132 for 6 in 18 overs — 4 runs behind the DLS par score — while chasing Mumbai's 155 for 8.

When it resumed, at 12.30 am on Wednesday, the Titans needed 15 runs off just one over: Rahul Tewatia hit Deepak Chahar for a boundary on the first ball before the Titans stole a single off the last ball to complete the victory.

Earlier, the Titans recovered from early fielding howlers while spin ace Rashid Khan (1/21) rediscovered his mojo to restrict Mumbai Indians to a below-par total.

As many as three dropped catches in the power play notwithstanding, Gujarat fought back through their spinners Rashid and R Sai Kishore (2/34) to grab control of the game in which Mumbai Indians crumbled against pressure.

Will Jacks, who was dropped twice on 0 and 29, struck a 35-ball 53 (5x4s, 3x6s) while Suryakumar Yadav made a brisk 34 but the rest of the MI batters couldn't respond to the challenge, particularly skipper Hardik Pandya (1) and Tilak Varma (7).

An eventful first over from Mohammed Siraj (1/29) marked the start of the contest when B. Sai Sudharsan took a fine low catch at extra cover to dismiss Ryan Rickelton (2) but dropped another when Jacks smacked one straight to him.

Rohit Sharma (7) was beaten a few times by left-arm pacer Arshad Khan (1/18), who kept it tight from one end. Eventually, Rohit fell to Arshad in the fourth over, mishitting one to Prasidh Krishna at mid-off.

## FOREST'S TOP 5 BID DENTED BY PALACE

London, May 6: Nottingham Forest's bid to qualify for the Champions League suffered a setback as they were held to a damaging 1-1 draw at Crystal Palace on Monday.

Nuno Espirito Santo's side needed a victory to keep pace with their top five rivals. But Eberechi Eze's second-half penalty put Palace ahead and, although Murrillo equalised soon afterwards, Forest left south



Crystal Palace's Eberechi Eze (left) celebrates after scoring a goal against Nottingham Forest during their English Premier League match at Selhurst Park in London on Monday. The match ended in a 1-1 draw.

### SCOREBOARD

**Mumbai Indians:** Ryan Rickelton c Sai Sudharsan b Siraj 2, Rohit Sharma c Prasidh b Arshad Khan 7, Will Jacks c Sai Sudharsan b Rashid Khan 53, Suryakumar Yadav c Shubman Gill b Sai Kishore 35, Tilak Varma c Shubman Gill b Gerald Coetzee 7, Hardik Pandya c Shubman Gill b Sai Kishore 1, Naman Dhir c Shubman Gill b Prasidh 7, Corbin Bosch run out 27, Deepak Chahar not out 1, Karn Sharma not out 1. Extras (lb-6, w-1) 7. **Total (for 8 wickets in 20 overs) 155.**

**Fall of wickets:** 1-2, 2-26, 3-97, 4-103, 5-106, 6-113, 7-123, 8-150.

**Bowling:** Mohammed Siraj 3-0-29-1, Arshad Khan 3-0-18-1, Prasidh Krishna 4-0-37-1, R Sai Kishore 4-0-34-2, Rashid Khan 4-0-21-1, Gerald Coetzee 2-0-10-1.

**Gujarat Titans:** Sai Sudharsan c Rickelton b Boult 5, Shubman Gill b Bumrah 43, Jos Buttler c Rickelton b Ashwani Kumar 30, Sherfane Rutherford lbw b Boult 28, M. Shahruxh Khan b Bumrah 6, Rahul Tewatia not out 11, Rashid Khan lbw b Ashwani Kumar 2, Gerald Coetzee c Naman Dhir bt Chahar 12. Extras (nb-3, w-6) 9. **Total (for 7 wickets in 19 overs) 147.**

**Fall of wickets:** 1-6, 2-78, 3-113, 4-115, 5-123, 6-126.

**Bowling:** Deepak Chahar 3-0-32-1, Trent Boult 4-0-22-2, Jasprit Bumrah 4-0-19-2, Hardik Pandya 1-0-18-0, Karn Sharma 2-0-13-0, Ashwani Kumar 4-0-28-2, Will Jacks 1-0-15-0.

**(Win by DLS Method — target revised after rain interruptions)**

Suryakumar welcomed Prasidh (1/37) into the attack with two straight drives past the bowler but he was lucky when a lousy effort from Sai Kishore at midwicket saw a flick shot going through the fielder's hands.

Arshad did well on his part but wasn't lucky for a second wicket when a flick from Jacks went straight to Siraj at midwicket, where the India bowler spilled a regulation catch in the sixth over.

— PTI



Above: Gujarat Titans bowler Sai Kishore (right) celebrates taking the wicket of Mumbai Indians captain Hardik Pandya during their Indian Premier League match at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Tuesday.

Below: IPL Governing Council member and former chairman of the BCCI's Junior Selection Committee V. Chamundeswarnath (left) watches the IPL match between Sunrisers Hyderabad and Delhi Capitals along with women's boxing world champion Nikhat Zareen at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium on Monday.



## CCOB too strong for Sporting FC

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MAY 6

City College Old Boys Senior Football Club defeated Hyderabad Sporting FC 3-0 in the Telangana Football Association's 'A' Division Rahim League match at the Artillery Centre Ground. Abdullah Amir opened the scoring in the 16th minute of the match, Shaik Umair Almod doubled the lead in the 43rd minute while Abdullah Amir completed the tally in the 60th minute.

### 2 RAILWAY FOOTBALLERS BANNED FROM LEAGUE

Meanwhile, the Telangana Football Association has suspended two players — Vineeth John Rodricks and Alfred Tennyson — of the South Central Railway team on disciplinary grounds. Rodricks has been suspended for the entire tournament while Alfred Tennyson has been banned for six upcoming matches.

"On 26th April 2025, dur-

ing the match between South Central Railway and Abbas Union at Sreenidhi Deccan Arena, Mr. Vineeth John Rodricks was shown a red card for misconduct. Following this, Mr. Alfred Tennyson interfered in the matter, for which he was also shown a red card. Both players behaved in an extremely disrespectful and unacceptable manner by insulting the referee in front of all the players and spectators present at the stadium. They used abusive and filthy language, made personal comments and discriminated against the referee on the basis of colour. Mr. Alfred Tennyson also used unparliamentary language, further tarnishing the spirit of the game. This behaviour is highly disgraceful. Such actions set a poor example for young and aspiring players, who look up to these professionals as role models," TFA secretary A. P. Palguna wrote in a letter to SCR.

POINTS TABLE						
Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Points	Net RR
GT	11	8	3	0	16	+0.793
RCB	11	8	3	0	16	+0.482
PBKS	11	7	3	1	15	+0.376
MI	12	7	5	0	14	+1.156
DC	11	6	4	1	13	+0.362
KKR	11	5	5	1	11	+0.249
LSG	11	5	6	0	10	-0.469
SRH (E)	11	3	7	1	7	-1.192
RR (E)	12	3	9	0	6	-0.718
CSK (E)	11	2	9	0	4	-1.117

E — Eliminated

## Dhoni ready for Eden swansong

Kolkata, May 6: Mahendra Singh Dhoni's possible final hurrah at the Eden Gardens will be a captivating sub-plot when Kolkata Knight Riders square off against Chennai Super Kings in a must-win clash in front of a crowd expected to be draped in yellow, here on Wednesday.

While five-time champions CSK are already out of the playoff race, Dhoni remains at the helm, and his presence alone is expected to turn Eden yellow, despite the match being on KKR's home turf.

For a city where Dhoni has deep personal ties — his in-laws live here, and it is where he played much of his junior cricket — Wednesday could end up being emotionally charged for both the 43-year-old and his fans.

The Eden Gardens has witnessed many of Dhoni's milestones, from his maiden first-class century to two of his six Test hundreds.

So, when the iconic No.7 walks out on May 7, many will wonder if it's the last time Dhoni plays at this historic venue.

Dhoni, who took responsibility for CSK's narrow two-run loss to RCB in their previous match, is no longer the dominant force he once was.

Despite being in a strong position at 172/2 while chasing 214, CSK fell short in the final over. Dhoni was dismissed by Yash Dayal off the third

IPL 2025 Match: 57	
May 7, 7:30 pm Eden Gardens, Kolkata	
Kolkata Knight Riders	Chennai Super Kings
Overall in IPL	
263 Played	250
136 Won	140
125 Lost	108
2 No Result	2
272/7 Highest Total	246/5
Head-to-Head in IPL	
Matches played: 30	
KKR won: 11	CSK won: 19

ball of the last over, managing 12 runs off 8 balls. He later took the "blame" for the loss.

But for the fans, Dhoni is still an emotion, and a strong one at that.

While it's a do-or-die game for KKR, who must win all their remaining three matches to stay in playoffs contention, the match will be more about celebrating Dhoni's legacy than the result.

KKR currently have 11 points, and winning all three of their remaining games will take them to 17. Even then, qualification could come down to net run-rate and other results.

— PTI

### CITY CLIPS

#### Telangana swimmers fetch golds

Swimmers from Telangana won three gold medals on the second day of the Khelo India Youth Games being held in Gaya, Bihar: Mylari Suhas Preetham (100 metres Backstroke), Sri Nithya Sagi (100m Backstroke) and Dhulipudi Varshith (400m Individual Medley) were the top performers.

**THE RESULTS**

■ **Men's 400m Individual Medley:** 1. Varshith Dhulipudi (Telangana) 4 min-utes 38.39 seconds, 2. Mongam Theerdhu Sama (Andhra Pradesh) 4:38.87, 3. Amav Ramdas Kadu (Maharashtra) 4:44.74.

■ **Women's 100m Backstroke:** 1. Sri Nithya Sagi (Telangana) 1 minute 06.36 seconds, 2. Vihitha Nayana Loganath (Karnataka) 1:07.67, 3. S. Maria Wincyia (Tamil Nadu) 1:08.27.

■ **Men's 100m Backstroke:** 1. Suhas Preetham Mylari (Telangana) 58.73 seconds, 2. Arjun Singh (Haryana) 59.56, 3. Samarth Gowda B. S (Karnataka) 59.74.



Swimmers Suhas Preetham (from left), Sri Nithya Sagi and Dhulipudi Varshith pose with their gold medals alongside coach John Siddiqui at the Khelo India Youth Games in Gaya, Bihar.

#### Shashank, Rithwika for World Games

Hyderabad tennis player Macherla Theertha Shashank and Nizamabad swimmer Mittappally Rithwika will represent India at the World University Games to be held in Rhine-Ruhr, Germany, from July 16 to 27. Rithwika won gold at the All India University Selection Trials held in Bengaluru. She represented the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology, Bhubaneswar. Shashank, an MBA student at KL University (Hyderabad), made it to the German event by securing a silver at the All India University Games held in Jaipur.

#### Masters cricket league begins today

The Veterans Cricket Association of Telangana (VCAT) is organising Season-2 of its Masters Premier League, a franchise-based tournament involving six teams — Hyderabad Heroes, Ranga Reddy Royals, Adilabad Tigers, Mahabubnagar Warriors, Karimnagar Kings and Nalgonda Lions. The league-cum-knockout tournament sponsored by ARL Tyres will be played at the Prime Arena Cricket Ground from May 7 to 11.